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T3

 **The Gadget Magazine**

 Christmas 2014 / £4.99

THE BEST

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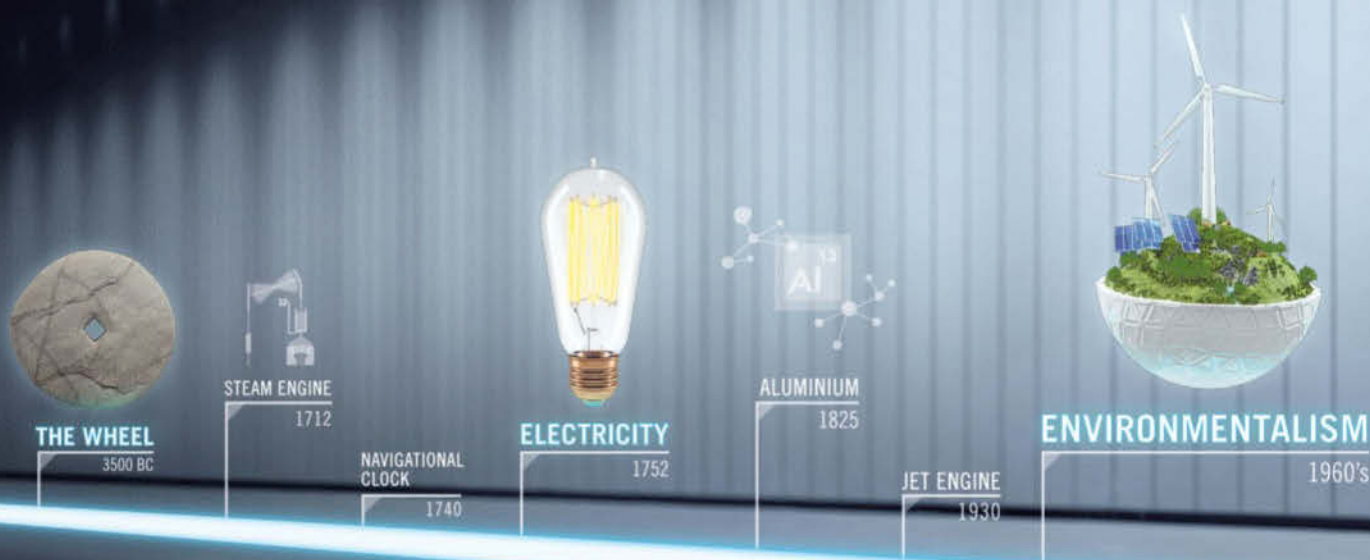
164 ESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR GADGET LOVERS

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CHANEL





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ON THE COVER

MOON SAKER @ SAPPHIRES
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NEIL GODWIN
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Editor's letter

Christmas 2014 / Issue 237



It's early December 1987 and a dog-eared Argos catalogue is the most treasured item in my house. My brother and I have – since the beginning of Autumn – spent each evening and weekend pouring over pages 344-426. It is Christmas. This is the toys section. And Santa needs his list.

Highlights of Christmases past are never necessarily found in the receiving. But they're not totally in the giving either. Now I won't pretend that the NES that appeared under my tree that Christmas didn't shake my world profoundly (how the hell could *Duck Hunt* not shake my world profoundly), but the true joy of that time was in the selection and expectation of just what to ask Santa for. Choosing between gifts, circling my favourites, ranking my decisions and finally, painfully, reluctantly even, writing that final letter to send to Santa. The NES topped that list, but the fun in choosing it and imagining the pleasure it would bring was almost – almost – as gratifying as shooting bitmap ducks from the sky with a plastic gun.

Nostalgia floods the festive season like no other. Methodically produced advertising campaigns (crafted months ago, at the height of English summertime;

air-conditioned studios adding frost exhalations and snow machines in overdrive) cast Christmas as an old home movie peppered with scenes of familial generosity.

But the reality we all know is different.

Say what you like about seasons of goodwill and peace on Earth, Christmas as an adult is about indulgence (in my case friends, family, smoked almonds, cheap sherry, and some form of Jerry Bruckheimer monstrosity to conveniently slumber though). And it's that sense of indulgence and expectation that the 1987 Argos catalogue delivered to me as a six-year-old lad – sheer, unadulterated 'shiny-new-play-thing' joy.

Forward 27 years and Argos' Christmases are not so different, though mine are. Instead of a catalogue the size and weight of a paving slab, our senses are bushwhacked by Argos' new TV spot. Exploding playrooms and a deluge of primary-coloured toys replace the carefully selected, styled and photographed product pages of yore. Yet the effect remains the same – the true self-indulgent joy of Christmas remains in ogling through each catalogue page and pouring over the items we so desperately desire.

That's what we've looked to echo in our Gift Guide, which starts on page 56. It's not just present ideas for others – but ideas for you, too. After all, it's likely your hard work that will be paying for Christmas, whether that's buying your partner a new iPhone, getting the kids a toy that would've made your own list, or treating yourself to that quality bit of kit that you know you deserve.

So grab a pen and a mince pie, dog-ear some pages, star your choices and gaze upon the finest gadgets and gifts we could find for the ultimate Christmas wish list.

Tom Dennis, editor

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1
NEIL GODWIN

This issue's cover image was shot by photographer, Neil, who spent painstaking hours dangling white gadgets and fake fur around our model and capturing the spectacular results.



2
TOM ASHTON-BOOTH

Tom is the London-based artist, designer, prop-maker and all-round creative honcho responsible for the phenomenal set-design and direction for our Xmas Gadget Guide – see p56.



3
HENRY WINCHESTER

Henry has a way with words and a tenderness for tech, which makes him one of the the foremost and funniest writers on our books. He handles the gadgets hurtling across our radar, starting on p17.

To subscribe to T3, point your browser at myfavouritemagazines.co.uk, or flick to p104. **The next T3 goes on sale December 23**



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Radar

ESSENTIAL NEWS FROM TECH'S FRONTLINE



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MOST WANTED

Brains and beauty:
an outstanding display
with beefy hardware
to boot



{APPLE iMAC WITH 5K RETINA DISPLAY}

THE SCREEN TO BEAT

*The latest screen electronics and
fabrication tech combine to produce
incredible accuracy in Apple's new iMac
with 5K Retina display*



➔ IT HAD TO HAPPEN AT SOME POINT, and now it actually has. Apple has taken its Retina screen technology – already seen in iPhones, iPads and iBook Pros – and brought it to the iMac. The latest model's screen is 27 inches diagonally, which is the same as the previous top-specced iMac, but with Retina it's boosted right up to 5K resolution – or 5,120x2,880 pixels, to be precise.

Who could possibly need a screen with more than double the resolution of the old model? Well, the digital photography enthusiast will be able to see the finest hairs on the tail of a kitten, zooming and scrolling around 14.7MP photos without the intrusion of a tiresome spinning beach ball. More importantly, it means you can work on many images on a pixel-for-pixel basis without having to continually zoom in and out.

Similarly, the digital video expert can now edit 4K video at full resolution with room on the screen for the timeline and other toolbars. But let's not forget less glamorous work such as spreadsheets, text editing, or even internet browsing: with such massive real estate, you can fit an awful lot of information on screen.

Apple's timing controller (TCON) is the screen's nerve system: it tells each of the 14.7-million pixels what to do. Dell's Ultra HD 5K monitor uses two TCON units, meaning you need a computer with two display ports to use it. With one TCON, and being an iMac, this screen comes with a computer built in. That computer happens to be one of Apple's most powerful Macs yet, and runs Yosemite, the new version of OS X.

With 23 separate layers within the screen, lots of work has gone into its Thin Film Transistor (TFT) technology. This has a coating that aligns certain molecules for consistent contrast. A layer of compensation film then ensures that contrast and colour are consistent when the screen is viewed from wider angles. As this display is so big, even when you're sitting head-on the four corners are at quite an angle from your position, so Apple's efforts in this department are essential.

So, we get all this wonderful resolution, colour, contrast and computing power, and according to Apple this screen actually uses 30% less power than the previous-generation iMac display. Everything fits into the same case as the existing 27-inch iMac, with the edges of the screen only 5mm thick.

A fabrication process called friction-stir welding is used to put these babies together. It's normally used to build space rockets; heat is generated by friction and then pressure is applied for a bond that intermixes the molecules in the aluminium. Cool. 📺

FROM £1,999, [APPLE.COM/UK](http://apple.com/uk), OUT NOW

{DETAILS}

1 GRID POWER

There are 23 layers in the iMac's ultra-thin LCD screen, and an insane amount of work is done by the TFT's grid, which instructs 14.7-million pixels on how to light up.

2 HIDDEN TALENTS

The screen may be the main event, but the computer inside is no sideshow. It can be specced up to 4.0GHz with 32GB of RAM and a 3TB Fusion drive.

3 SMOOTH MOVES

The screen's incredible 5,120x2,880 resolution runs native in Apple's latest operating system, Yosemite. No pauses. No stutter. Smooth as silk.

4 LOW PROFILE

It's all about profile, and somehow Apple has managed to keep the screen so thin its edges are still only 5mm thick.

{SPECS}

OS OS X 10.10 (Yosemite)

SCREEN 27-inch,

5,120x2,880 pixels

PROCESSOR/RAM 3.5GHz

Intel Core i5/8GB

GRAPHICS AMD Radeon R9

M290X with 2GB DGDDR5

STORAGE 1TB

CAMERA FaceTime HD,

3,840x2,160 pixels





{FOCUS}

How else to get a 5K experience



DELL ULTRASHARP 27 ULTRA HD 5K MONITOR

In September, Dell announced its 5K monitor, which should be out by Christmas. With 14.7-million pixels on screen, there are almost twice as many as you'll get in a 4K monitor. However, the \$2,500 price Dell estimated seems high.

You can get a Dell 4K monitor for around £400 now, or the new iMac with 5K at the same price.



THE SHARP 8K PROTOTYPE

Early last year, Sharp demonstrated an 8K television running at a resolution of 7,680x4,320. At the time, the company projected another four years before its release. Even assuming Apple keeps pressing ahead with its screens, it's unlikely we'll see a head-to-head between them, and at 85 inches it's a bit big to fit on your desk.



{SPEAK}

MacFormat editor Christian Hall on the iMac's colourful journey



It's hard to believe it's been 14 years since the launch of the first iMacs. In 1998, when Steve Jobs was photographed cuddling one of these all-in-ones, the emphasis was on design and colour. The world of personal computers was dominated by boring beige at the time. A beige box housing

the chips would have a separate beige monitor. The mouse? The keyboard? Well, they were beige too. Then the iMac took computing out of the office and put it on the kitchen table.

Jobs' huggable computer was blueberry-coloured, and there were four more shades to choose from. There was a handle behind the CRT so you could

easily pick up the playful perspex unit – you could see through the body a little, glimpsing some of the tech inside. The only faux pas, perhaps, was the round puck-style mouse.

But the tech was not the best on offer; PCs and the new G3 Macs left it for dust on the performance charts. That's all

changed with the 27-inch iMac with 5K Retina display. It's Apple's best screen, combined with a very powerful computer.

Today the iMac is anything but an unruly teenager. It's elegant, it's leading edge and it's every bit an object of desire. The latest step in iMac's journey is almost certainly one the late Mr Jobs would approve of.

NEED LIST

New gear guaranteed to make your life better (well a bit, anyway)



{1} EBONY AND IVORY

Intel MICA

In creating the MICA – My Intelligent Communication Accessory – silicon giant Intel has joined forces with fashion label Opening Ceremony. The chunky bangle-cum-watch-cum-tech-thingy comes in either black or white. Watersnakes of both colours have given up their skins – probably not willingly, we’re guessing – and the black model also includes Chinese pearls and lapis stones from Madagascar. Details on MICA’s actual functions are vague, but it has a touchscreen, and there’s talk of text messaging and diary functions too.

\$1,000, INTEL.COM, OUT DECEMBER



{2} R(AMP) IT UP

Marshall Woburn

The classic Marshall guitar amp design has been reapplied in the form of a chunky integrated speaker system. It can take a sound source from your smartphone through a 3.5mm jack, or via Bluetooth, to the four speakers – two woofers and two tweeters – inside. Comes in black or white.

£450, MARSHALLHEADPHONES.COM, OUT NOW



{3} INTERNET EXPLORER

Google Glass Explorer Edition 2.0

Google’s cyber eyewear – still in beta – lets you use the search engine and its attendant technologies to augment and/or decipher the world around you. It has a prism projector with a tiny screen in it, controlled by voice command, integrating with Google Maps and the web via your phone’s 3G or Wi-Fi connection. Glass Explorer Edition is delivered without lenses, but you can have sunglass or prescription lenses added when you order.

£1,000, PLAY.GOOGLE.COM, OUT NOW



{5} LOOK SHARP!

Brunton Power Knife

Swiss soldiers everywhere are throwing out their knives in favour of the Brunton Power Knife. Or not. It doesn't cut through much, but if you have a plug with a standard USB female socket, you can charge to Apple Lightning or 30-pin devices, as well as Micro USB. An add-on charging device is also available, so you can take a stored supply of energy along when you need to head off into the woods.

\$24.99, BRUNTON.COM, OUT NOW

{7} TRIPLE THREAT

Garmin Forerunner Multisport 920XT

Whether you're swimming, running or cycling, the Forerunner Multisport 920XT offers wearable GPS tech that'll help you set out an iron-man fitness routine and keep track of your ever-improving stats. It can time your lengths and rests in the pool, measure your times and distances on a run, and gather ascent and descent data while you pedal. With compatible monitors for heart rate, cadence and power, you can improve your pace and compare (or compete) with your peers.

£389.99, BUY.GARMIN.COM, OUT NOW



{8} GOGGLE BOX

ZEISS VR One

Promised by this Christmas, VR One brings virtual reality to the smartphone-using masses. Handsets between 4.7 and 5.2 inches in size slot into a 'tray' on the side of the goggles, and word is that thanks to Zeiss' optical design, it offers an "optimum" viewing experience. Via your phone, you'll be able to watch YouTube, view photos and stroll around 360° panoramas in Google StreetView. VR games and 3D video are also promised.

€99, VR-ONE.EU, OUT DECEMBER



{6} MOBILE SANS FRONTIERS

Sharp Aquos Crystal

Already established with its widescreen LED TV brand, Sharp is taking its no-edge Aquos styling to mobile phones. Because of this the Crystal has the smallest footprint of any phone in the five-inch category, and having crossed from Japan to the US, it'll hopefully make the jump to Europe and the UK soon.

\$149.99, SHARPU.SA.COM, OUT TBC



{9} PALM PILOT

TobyRich SmartPlane

If you thought biplanes were old-fashioned, think again. This is a styrofoam aircraft Baron von Richthofen would be proud to pilot, if he were alive, and had a compatible smartphone to control it. Take-off is the easiest bit – just throw it into the air. Then you can start flying, controlling the plane via Bluetooth using the app on your phone. Slide your thumb up and down to adjust altitude, and tilt left or right to turn. The plane has a range of up to 60m, and if you fly smart (i.e. not constantly full throttle) you can get 30 minutes flying out of one charge.

€49.99, SMARTPLANE.NET, OUT NOW



{11} ONE FOR YOUR EARS

OnePlus One JBL Special Edition

Indie tech start-up OnePlus undoubtedly created an object of desire in the form of its first smartphone, the OnePlus One. It also generated desire for the phone through an invite-only ordering campaign earlier this year. Now it's adding to the hype with a China-only promotion that locks in with speaker brand JBL. For the equivalent of \$360, if you're lucky you'll get your hands on a beautifully packaged phone complete with E1+ earbuds emblazoned with the JBL logo, and an app to EQ their sound.

\$360, ONEPLUS.NET, OUT NOW



{15} EVERY CLOUD...

WD My Cloud

Western Digital has come up with a solution for celebs – and civvies – worried that their nude photos will be hacked on iCloud. My Cloud is a personal cloud drive that you can physically own and password protect. Your photos, films, music and files won't go to some distant server; instead they'll be stored on a unit right in your home. You can upload to it wirelessly from your phone, laptop or tablet, or plug it into your computer or camera via USB 3.0.

FROM £142.99, STORE.WESTERNDIGITAL.COM, OUT NOW

{13} OPEN ALL HOURS

August Smart Lock

Installed on the inside section of your front door's deadbolt, the clever August Smart Lock enables you to lock and unlock your door using your iPhone via Bluetooth – no codes to forget, no keys to lose. The device runs independently of Wi-Fi and uses batteries.

\$249.95, APPLESTORE.COM/US, OUT NOW



{14} AT THE BUNKER, TURN LEFT

TomTom Golfer

Navigate your ball around (almost) any golf course with this neat wristwear created by GPS experts TomTom. The weather- and waterproof watch automatically tells you accurate distances to the green you're approaching, and provides graphics of all the likely hazards, as well as the green itself. Use it to track your score, time your round and even count the calories you've burned. Includes data for 34,000 courses, and more are being added – simply update the watch via your smartphone to ensure you have them all.

£199.99, TOMTOM.COM, OUT NOW





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INTERSTELLAR

IN CINEMAS
NOVEMBER 7



LEGENDARY



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#Interstellar



TO FIND OUT HOW TO WIN
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KEF
INNOVATORS IN SOUND

HIGH RESOLUTION SOUND THAT IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO ADULTS TO ICELAND WITH
KEF AND WARNER BROS. OR A STUNNING
HOME THEATRE SPEAKER SET

Like all modern movies, half the pleasure of watching the highly anticipated film *Interstellar* lies in the soundtrack. And to enjoy the full benefit at home, you need a system that envelopes you in the same high definition soundscape you experience in the cinema.

That means KEF. Which is why, to celebrate the release of *Interstellar* (in cinemas Nov 7), we've not only teamed up with Warner Bros. to give away a dream trip to Iceland, taking in the Northern Lights and the movie locations, but we're also offering a chance to win a KEF E Series home theatre speaker package, worth £900.00.*

*Terms and Conditions apply. To see these visit kef.com/gb

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC, SIRI

Thanks to Pioneer you can now fit an Apple CarPlay system to your dash



AVIC-F60DAB

With a DAB radio tuner and hundreds of enhanced maps with 3D landmarks and points of interest, this top-of-the-range model can also play DVDs and use your car's climate and parking sensors to display the temperature and vehicle position. Running Android, this seven-inch model talks to iPhones and more via a fast AVIC connection.

£849.99, CARAUDIODIRECT.COM



AVIC-F960BT

Also using that fast AVIC connection, the F960BT has a 6.1-inch multi-touch screen and can play all kinds of media, just like the F60DAB. You can fine-tune the audio with a 13-band graphic equaliser, while its Bluetooth Parrot Module means it can tune itself into the acoustics of your car for improved voice recognition.

£594.90, AMAZON.CO.UK



SPH-DA120

Pioneer's most affordable CarPlay-based system. With a 6.2-inch LCD display it relies more on CarPlay's features than the Pioneer extras found on the higher-end models. It connects with Android smartphones and older iPhones – albeit without CarPlay – and boasts Siri Eyes Free and Google Voice, plus wireless audio streaming.

£349.99, HALFORDS.COM



{EXTRA}

SO WHY WOULD YOU WANT ONE?



Make the right call

Apple CarPlay links a car's entertainment system to the driver's iPhone 5/5s/5c/6/6+ and enables some of the smartphone's features on the car's dashboard.



Let the music play

As you make your four-wheeled getaway, you need a suitable soundtrack. So choose a playlist from iTunes, tap the big play button on the touchscreen, and enjoy.



Where in the world?

No need for GPS – the iPhone's GPS and Maps app give voice directions and traffic info. CarPlay can even use addresses in your contacts to guess where you're going.



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INFRARED

STAY WARMER LONGER.

I WILL.

MARQUISE LEE.
PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER

UA.COM



PORTABLE PLAYERS

Handheld gamers to add to your lengthy Christmas wish-list. But have you been good enough...?

Nintendo 3DS XL

The 3DS enabled you to play 3D games without glasses and a huge TV, but the stereoscopic effect didn't work for some, and made others nauseous. With the XL the top screen is 90% larger and the 3D can be turned down, or off. A 3-6.5 hour battery life, 3D camera, 4GB SD card and online play via Wi-Fi help you enjoy Nintendo-exclusive games.

£179.99, STORE.NINTENDO.CO.UK, OUT NOW

PlayStation Vita

If the 3DS XL is a double quarter-pounder – with bacon – then maybe this is a healthy-but-tasty chicken caesar wrap. Its slim profile and light weight make it easily pocketable and the 960x544 resolution is decent enough for a five-inch LED screen. Play for up to six hours before recharging – less if on PS4 Remote Play – with dual analogue sticks.

£139, AMAZON.CO.UK, OUT NOW

Nvidia Shield

Graphics giant Nvidia has gone a category beyond tablet gaming with this one. The Android tablet has an eight-inch 1080p HD touchscreen with a stylus, plus the power of a Tegra K1 super-chip with 1,900x1,200 resolution behind it and punchy side speakers. Choose between 16GB and 32GB versions and add the wi-fi controller for £49.99.

£299.99 (32GB), SHIELD.NVIDIA.CO.UK, OUT NOW

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READY

⚡ STAYLOUD
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⚡ TRACK
FUNCTIONALITY

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⚡ UP TO 10 HOURS
OF MUSIC



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THE YEAR'S HOTTEST CONCEPT TECH

Ten of the greatest gadgets announced in 2014 that make us hot and sweaty for the future...





1. URB-E

This electric scooter is capable of travelling 20 miles at a top speed of 15 miles per hour. If you need to get somewhere more quickly it will fold up so you can take it on the train or shove it into the back of a taxi.

2. PANONO

Designed for those very specific situations where you want to take a photo of everything at once, chuck Panono into the air and its 36 cameras will capture a 360° Street View-style panorama. The results are ace – even if you can always see the person who's thrown it.

3. RITOT

We were suckers for the 2009 fashion of getting the current time tattooed on your hands. We should have waited for Ritot, a "projection watch" that illuminates your hand with the current time and date, as well as alerts for messages and other smartwatchy things, features and touches.

4. THE BUCCANEER

Aiming to make 3D printing accessible and affordable, this brushed aluminium and clear plastic rectangle looks like it could have been cooked up by the design chiefs at Apple. It's feature packed too, with cloud printing, easy set-up and the ability to print from mobile.

5. GEEKWAVE

Thought MP3 players were dead? Well think again. Geekwave's pocket hi-fi boasts ten processor cores, a massive battery and 32/384 pulse code modulation, all of which make your tunes sound better than ever.

6. ATLAS FITNESS TRACKER

Conventional fitness trackers are great for repetitive, impactful activities like running, but they fall down when it comes to pumping iron. Atlas reckons its fitness tracker can work out exactly what you're doing, from push-ups to bench presses, and provide live feedback.

7. SKULLY AR-1

Not to be confused with Fox Mulder's cynical sidekick, this Skully is a tech-enhanced motorcycle helmet that packs a heads-up display, GPS navigation and a rear camera. It'll turn you into a two-wheeled Iron Man. Or Street Hawk, for older readers.

8. EMBERLIGHT

Building a smart home usually requires lots of cabling, programming knowledge and a very forgiving partner. Emberlight makes it far simpler, screwing into your light socket so you can turn the light on and off from anywhere in the world.

9. JIBO

Moving us a step closer to the world envisioned by Spielberg's AI, JIBO is a "family robot" you can chat to and use to schedule tasks and events. It can't move or walk, which is a good thing given robots' propensity for crushing existential crises.

10. TRACKR BRAVO

TrackR's Bluetooth-powered keyring can be "called" by your phone so you can find your keys or bag. It works both ways, too, so pressing it will call your phone so you can locate it. It's in the bathroom, by the way.



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Intel's Make it Wearable contest is throwing up smart gizmos of the future we actually want to get our hands on



BLOCKS

Blocks is essentially the smartwatch equivalent of Google's Project Ara modular smartphone. It makes a hell of a lot of sense – the various bluetooth-connected modules form the watch's strap, so you can add a microphone and SIM card when you need to make a call, or GPS and a heart-rate monitor when you feel the urge for a jog.

CHOOSEBLOCKS.COM



WRISTIFY

Essentially a heatsink for your wrist, Wristify's bracelet warms up or cools down depending on whether you want to feel toasty or chilly. It may sound like pseudo science, but according to the device's creators altering temperatures in a tiny spot can make the wearer feel a lot more comfortable, which should in turn reduce heating bills and ultimately save the planet.

EMBRILABS.COM



PROGLOVE

Anyone who's seen *Elysium* will know how dangerous factories can be, but ProGlove might be the device that saves you from an irradiated, convoluted doom. The glove displays context-sensitive information to assembly-line labourers, detecting voltages and temperatures, indicating how two parts are assembled, or explaining why *District 9* was much better in every single way.

PROGLOVE.DE



SNOWCOOKIE

While it may sound like the ultimate Christmas biscuit, Snowcookie is in fact a ski-centric multi-sensor. Beginners who use it will receive advice on how to improve their posture and technique, while pros get feedback on the angle and pressure of their skis so they can fine-tune their performance. And there's not a crumb in sight.

IQ.INTEL.COM

D750



24.3

MEGAPIXEL



FOCUS
POINTS



TILT SCREEN



BUILT-IN WIFI

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TOTEMIC SOUND

At 3.5 metres tall, could this bonkers structure (aka the AeroDream One) be the ultimate speaker dock?

£POA, JARRE.COM, OUT NOW

WHO?

French king of synths Jean Michel Jarre and Jarre Technologies set out to create stylish hi-fi products for our listening pleasure. The French avant garde musician is used to going large. He's played his laser harp for world record crowds of well over two million in Paris and Moscow, and his album, *Oxygène*, has sold over 12 million copies.

WHAT?

Built to order, the resulting AeroDream One is one hell of an indulgence for music-loving iPhone/iPad/iPod owners. Climb the ladder included, natch, plug your device into the dock at the top, access iTunes, then bliss out to sound delivered via a huge subwoofer, two 1,600W mid-range speakers and two 1,400W high-frequency speakers.

HOW?

Jarre Technologies has not only designed the AeroDream One's behemoth exterior, but has specially engineered its signal processor too. The precision electronics inside reproduce base and treble for the purest sound possible. The scientific-looking exterior is made of glass and metal.

WHY?

Jarre really does see AeroDream One as a totem, and with it is sending a message to the music industry. He wants the system to "recreate emotion and bring back impeccable sound quality" – things he feels are lost while listening on most of today's music tech systems.

ANYTHING ELSE?

The AeroDream One also has MP3, mini-stereo and XLR inputs in case you don't have an iOS device. The total output is over 10,000W, and its range is 25Hz to 25KHz. You can order it in black, white or chrome, if you're brave enough to ask for the price.



{EXTRA}

MORE CELEBRITY MUSIC/TECH MASH-UPS



Solo HD

Jimmy Iovine and the good Dr Dre decided overear 'phones looked neither cool, nor sounded good. So they invented their own and sold them to Apple for £1.5 billion.



Puls

Will.i.am launched his Puls wristband (not a watch) resplendent with virtual assistant Aneeda (not Siri) this month. It packs a SIM reader, GPS and 'vibe' sensor.



Pono

Neil Young has been angry since 1964. In 2014 his particular war was 'shitty digital music'. His Pono plays lossless 24-bit audio, with ten times more range than MP3.



#10

DESIGN DONS

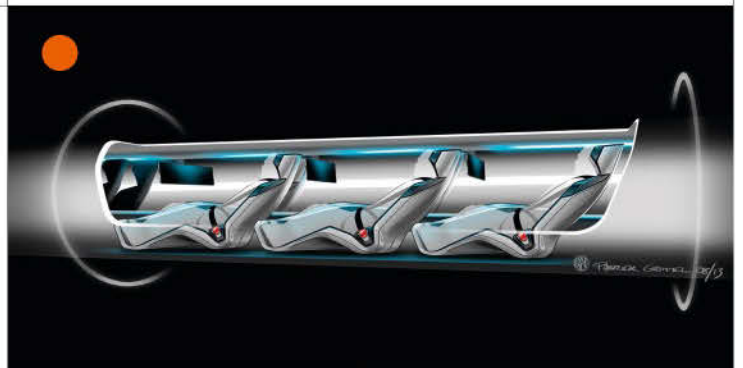
ELON MUSK

The billionaire inventor who is on a mission to Mars... quite literally



AFTER HE MADE A WHOPPING \$1.5 BILLION SELLING PayPal, Elon Musk turned his innovative spirit to bigger challenges. Cars running on sustainable energy, the colonisation of Mars, a way for us to survive all the threats to our species – these are the things he loses sleep over. He fully believes in using creativity and design to challenge the norm, because if we don't change... well, you know.

So let's see just what the billionaire visionary who inspired Hollywood's Tony Stark has been doing with his time – besides worrying that the creation of an advanced AI might just be the equivalent of "summoning the demon" in a horror movie. And no, he wasn't joking about that one.



DRAGON V2 TBC

YOU CAN'T BUY ONE OF THESE. NOT YET. BUT DRAGON V2 BY SPACEX PROMISES TO BE A SEVEN-SEATER SPACECRAFT DESIGNED TO MAKE TERRESTRIAL LANDINGS AS WELL AS DOCK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION. IT'S REUSABLE AND HAS TAN LEATHER SEATS. NATURALLY.

TESLA MODEL X 2015

THIS ALL-WHEEL DRIVE SUV MODEL IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN 2015. DUAL DRIVE UNITS OVER THE FRONT AND REAR AXLES KEEP THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY LOW, SO ITS HANDLING COULD BE BETTER

THAN ANY OTHER FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE. PLUS, IT HAS FALCON-WING DOORS. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

HYPERLOOP TBC

LOS ANGELES TO SAN FRANCISCO IN JUST 30 MINUTES AND FOR A \$20 TICKET? MUSK BELIEVES THIS IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE AND HAS PROPOSED A SUPERSONIC OVERHEAD TUBE TO LINK THE CITIES. THE VACUUM CONDITIONS IN THE TUBE WOULD REDUCE AIR RESISTANCE AND SAVE ENERGY.

TESLA MODEL S 2012

A LUXURY ELECTRIC CAR THAT MATCHES PETROL CAR

PERFORMANCE ON MOST VECTORS. ONE OF THE KEY CHALLENGES IS CHARGE TIME. BUT MUSK'S ANSWER IS SIMPLE – PUT TWO CHARGERS IN THE VEHICLE. AN AUTOPILOT PACKAGE COMES AS AN OPTION, TOO.

SUPERCHARGER 2012

THE CREATIVITY, DESIGN AND INNOVATION THAT'S GONE INTO TESLA'S CARS HAS ALSO BEEN APPLIED TO ITS SUPERCHARGER STATIONS. THERE'S SOMETHING PHILIPPE STARCK-ESQUE ABOUT THE 'PUMPS': CHARGING TAKES A SPEEDY 20 MINUTES AND IS FREE OF CHARGE – FOREVER.

{SPEAK}

Design Museum's Alex Newson on custom-made cars



Part entrepreneur, part businessman, part engineer, part designer, Elon Musk has been responsible for a series of ventures that have shaken three very different industries. However, it's his work with Tesla that I'm most drawn to.

The Tesla factory is set up to perform like an enormous CNC machine, where the automated robots can make different parts simply by being given different instructions, and without the need to reinvest in new machine tools each time a change is made. The aim is to provide affordable variety and customisation within individual vehicle models – as we can with customised Nike or Adidas shoes.

The Tesla plant is as innovative now as Ford's was in 1913. Musk is essentially displacing Henry Ford's vision of mass-standardisation with one of mass-customisation.

BLACK WITH ADDED SWEETENER



CIVIC BLACK SPECIAL EDITION

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0% APR Representative. £199 a month.

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8 years by What Car? readers.

5
YEARS

SERVICING
FOR £500

SAVING
£700



Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.8 i-VTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8). CO₂ emissions: 137 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £19,955 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 customer saving applied to the original OTR price of £21,455. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registered from 1 November 2014 to 05 January 2015. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Civic Customer Saving:** £1,500 customer saving off the On The Road price. Customer saving of £1,500 inc VAT will be applied to the retail invoice. Applicable to 14YM Civic 1.8 Hatchback models (excludes S grade and all diesel grades). **Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *0% APR Representative example shown based on Civic 1.8 i-VTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £19,955 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. Representative example based on £5,420.03 (27%) deposit = £199 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,370.84 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years Servicing includes:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicle's service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. 5 Years Servicing is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,200 including VAT, resulting in a saving of up to £700 for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

STUFF

Last-minute shopping still to do? Let us help you out with this small selection of cool, fun and useful tech



BEEWI MINI ROBOT SURELY THE SPIRITUAL SUCCESSOR TO TOMY'S COMPLETELY USELESS 1980S DINGBOT. BEEWI'S BOT FEATURES BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY, SO YOU CAN CONTROL IT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE AND EVEN USE IT TO PLAY FOOTBALL. **£26, AMAZON.CO.UK, OUT NOW**

MINIPRESSO IS THAT A GAGGIA IN YOUR POCKET? MINIPRESSO USES A PUMPABLE PISTON TO DELIVER THE PRESSURE REQUIRED TO MAKE A PERFECT SHOT OF THE BLACK STUFF – ANYWHERE, ANYTIME. **\$49, WACACO.COM, OUT SPRING 2015**

S'WELL WATER BOTTLE AS AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING, YOU NEED TO DRINK 30 LITRES OF WATER A MINUTE TO LIVE (OR SOMETHING). IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO IT IN STYLE WITH S'WELL'S FUNKY INSULATED WATER BOTTLES. **£22, SHOPBOP.COM, OUT NOW**

SKULLCANDY AIR RAID SKULLCANDY'S WATERPROOF AND RUGGED BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS ARE RESISTANT TO THE KIND OF PARTIES WHERE PEOPLE DO KEG STANDS BEFORE NAKEDLY WALLOWING IN THEIR OWN VOMIT AND SELF-PITY. **£130, AMAZON.CO.UK, OUT NOW**

POWERCUBE LOOKING FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE A COMPANION CUBE FROM VALVE'S PORTAL GAMES, THIS COMPACT ADAPTER INSTEAD PLUGS INTO A POWER OUTLET SO YOU CAN CHARGE ALL YOUR GIZMOS AT ONCE. USB DEVICES INCLUDED. **£20, AMAZON.CO.UK, OUT NOW**

DUBS ACOUSTIC FILTERS DUBS' "ACOUSTIC FILTERS" PREVENT TINNITUS WHILE LETTING THE MOST IMPORTANT SOUNDS THROUGH, AND IT WON'T LOOK LIKE YOUR BRAIN'S ESCAPING THROUGH YOUR EARS. **\$25, GETDUBS.COM, OUT NOW**





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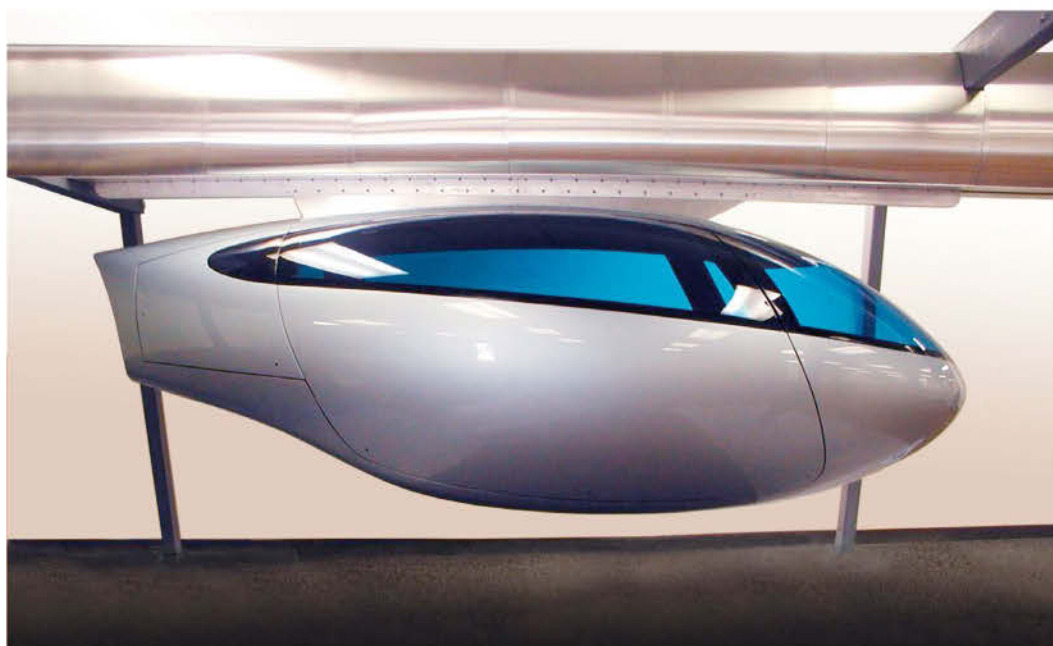
THE BUZZ

Converting the world's biggest tech stories into easily-digestible crumbs

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THIS MONTH

Building a space rocket? Don't use old engines
Orbital Sciences Corporation found this out the hard way when its Antares rocket exploded after lift-off. The design of the craft hinged on two engines originally produced for the Soviet 1970s space programme.

You can buy a zombie-proof cabin
Tiger Log Cabins' Zombie Fortification Cabin includes arsenal storage, a water cannon, flame throwers and a riot protection outfit, but the complete package will set you back £90,000. Having spent that much you'll probably be a bit disappointed if there isn't a zombie apocalypse.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Bold claims and back-tracks from the world of tech

{VIRTUAL REALITY}

Oculus Rift: Cult product or commercial success?

Then: Oculus' vice-president, Max Cohen, dismissed its Rift and Galaxy Gear headsets as niche products.
Now: Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook and owner of Oculus, predicts Rift will sell 100 million units in the next decade.

{TRANSPORTATION}

Monorail! Monorail! MONORAIL! MONORAIL!

Then: A couple of months ago, we looked at skyTran (above), the system of suspended taxi pods set to revolutionise travel in Tel Aviv.
Now: Strong interest from authorities in French municipalities Bordeaux, Paris, Toulouse and Strasbourg suggest that it might make its debut there.

{MOBILES}

King for a day

Then: Chinese mobile manufacturer Xiaomi bags 5.3% of the global market to become the world's third-biggest smartphone manufacturer.
Now: Just a day later Lenovo announces that its acquisition of Motorola Mobility is complete. With its combined assets it's able to push Xiaomi back to fourth place.



YOUR MAILS, TWEETS AND POSTS

Gold Apple Watch: worth \$1,200?

If I'm going to shell out that much for a watch, I will want it to at least look good on my wrist. In any case, the Apple Watch is a disposable piece of tech, not a proper jewellery-style watch. Realistically, I would not pay any more than a couple of hundred pounds maximum for something that Apple will replace with a new version in a year's time, and save my money for a proper watch that will last.

MARK HAMILTON, VIA FACEBOOK

I don't care. I'm not going to wear another electronic device that needs charging every night, just to mimic another device I already have in my pocket.

PAT LIM, VIA FACEBOOK

Gone, but not 4gotten

I must admit I am not surprised by the news of Phones 4u going into administration. In the past ten years, I must have visited their stores at least 20 times, and without exception was roundly ignored as staff chatted to their mates or huddled at the back of the shop conversing amongst themselves, ignoring both customers and buying signals alike. Selling starts with service...

MARK GOSBEE, VIA FACEBOOK

And how about this for service, Mark – a Gioteck headset for your troubles...

Phones 4u customer service is the worst I've ever seen, very unprofessional, and in some cases very rude. I never set foot in one of their stores since my first visit and made sure my friends didn't either. It's sad for all the decent staff losing their jobs, but for the ones I encountered, I have no sympathy whatsoever.

ADAM CROOK, VIA FACEBOOK



SEND MAIL, WIN THIS
A Gioteck EX-06 Wired headset with excellent sound quality and removable mic boom. Foldable and fantastic.
£34.99, GIOTECK.COM

AKG
by HARMAN



meet the new
Y50

WHAT HI-FI?
AWARDS 2014

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

On-ear headphones

Best portable on-ear headphones up to £100

AKG Y50



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Channeling 67 years of AKG expertise, the Y50 delivers pure studio sound
Sound that frees your imagination. Sound that unlocks your creativity
Sound that inspires. **Find out more on AKG.com**

WHAT'S ON YOUR RADAR?

Get the New Year off to a flying start with this cool stuff to watch, do and buy

3



Months away



TECH iBox Nano

Described as the world's smallest and most affordable 3D resin printer, the iBox Nano can create all sorts of tiny trinkets, such as chess pieces, rings and, er, dinosaur heads. It could be a great entry point into 3D printing.



FILM Furious 7

The late Paul Walker's final *Fast & Furious* film should be a fitting send-off for the actor. This time Jason Statham is seeking revenge for the death of his younger brother – a process which inevitably involves driving fast and, well, furiously.



GAME Battlefield: Hardline

Developer EA Dice puts its urban nous to good use with *Battlefield: Hardline*, which takes the military action out of the desert and relocates it to Los Angeles. Expect visceral *Heat*-style cops-and-robbers battles and insane car chases.



EVENT London West Tough Mudder

Basically an adventure playground for grown-ups, Tough Mudder involves electrocution, drops into icy water and running through fire. You can experience the fun for yourself at Henley on Thames on May 2 and 3.

6



Months away



TECH Lumera

Despite new SLRs packing wi-fi, there is still the problem of getting your snaps onto the internet. Lumera's gizmo bridges the gap by connecting your Canon or Nikon to your smartphone so you can upload directly to the web.



FILM Ant-Man

One of Marvel's lesser creations, Ant-Man is capable of shrinking to a tiny size while increasing in strength. Funnyman Paul Rudd will fill Ant-Man's tiny shoes, with Michael Douglas taking the role of Hank Pym, his mentor.



GAME Batman: Arkham Knight

The Batman: Arkham series has proved to be one of the best gaming franchises of the decade. The fourth entry in the series pitches Bats against the Scarecrow, and even chucks the Batmobile into the mix.



EVENT Great British Beer Festival

CAMRA's huge piss-up descends on London from 11 to 15 August. Last year Iron Maiden's lead singer Bruce Dickinson sold his own beer at the fest. Maybe this year Ozzy Osbourne will launch an IPA.

9



Months away



TECH Amazon Fire Phone 2

The world's biggest book shop's first venture into mobiles has been a bit of a flop, but the company has pledged to plough on regardless. Hopefully the sequel will include a better screen and user interface for a lower price.



FILM Everest

Based on the 1996 Mount Everest tragedy, Baltasar Kormákur's thriller features an all-star cast (Jake Gyllenhaal, Sam Worthington, Keira Knightley) attempting to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.



GAME Halo 5: Guardians

Hopes are high for Microsoft's Xbox One tentpole release. This one features a new engine built for the console and follows the *Reclaimer Trilogy* plot line. Steven Spielberg's tie-in TV series will launch around the same time.



EVENT Rugby World Cup 2015

England beat rival bids from Italy, Japan and South Africa to host this year's egg-wrestling competition. You can catch matches in London, Newcastle, Cardiff, Manchester and more, with the final spookily scheduled for 31 October.

{THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF T3'S COMING MONTH}

YEAH!

Lara Croft and the Guardian of Light proved to be a fun if slight adventure. Its follow-up, subtitled the *Temple of Osiris*, adds four-way co-op so you'll have yet more reasons to enter into bitter arguments with your housemates.

MEH!

It's advent calendar time! This year we're hoping for breakfast tipsiness with a rum calendar (£149.99, firebox.com) and Rebel versus Imperial battles with a Lego Star Wars alternative (\$24.99, amazon.co.uk).

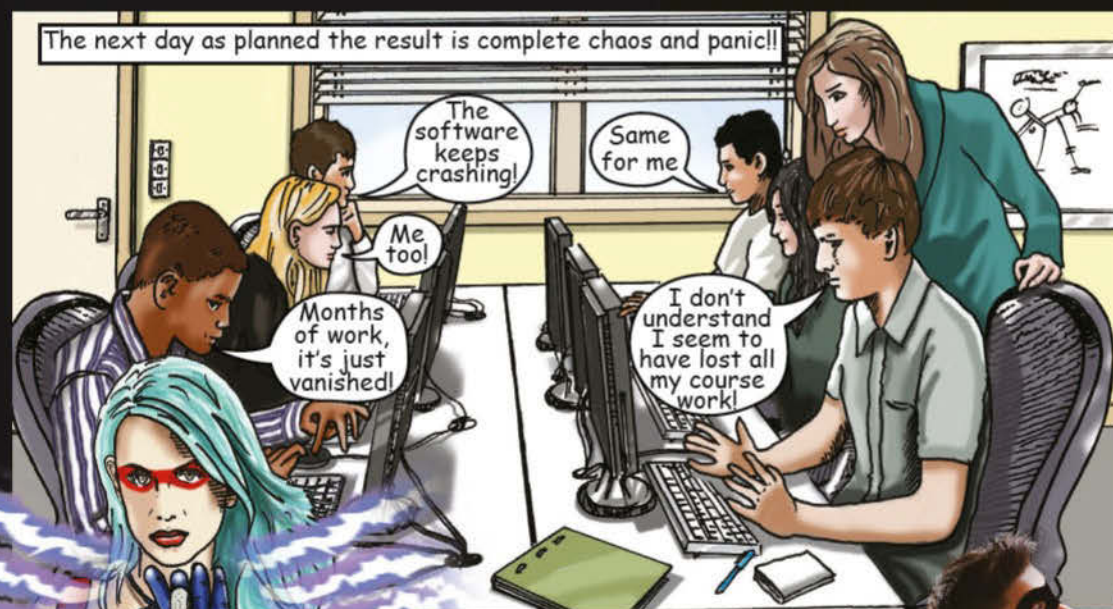
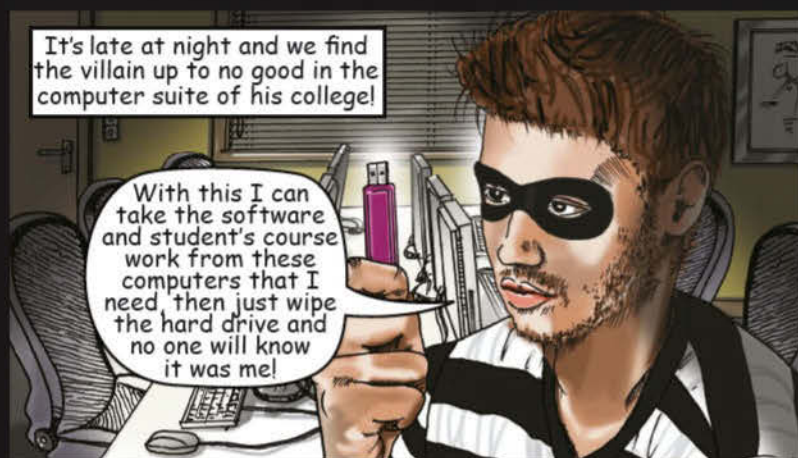
Ah, Christmas. The one day when it's socially acceptable to be drunk from morning through 'til evening. We'll avoid the Queen's Speech and old *James Bond* films with a VR headset and some noise-cancelling headphones.

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This month... *Take a US road trip / Delight your inner superhero / A musical tribute to WWI / Improve sound on mobile devices*



Play

THE CONTENT FOR YOUR KIT

THE ESSENTIAL



GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES

Ubisoft's MMO racer hybrid The Crew is on the starting grid, but is it in pole position?

The United States is a vast and beautiful landscape. Break through the perimeter of one of its many sprawling cities and, depending where you are, you can be greeted with sun-bleached deserts, lush Alpine forests or snow-capped hill passes. America's visual variety invites the urge to travel, to explore, to see every part of it.

It's this urge that occupies every space in *The Crew*, Ubisoft's new open-world racer. *The Crew* is the biggest

game of this type ever created – games like *Burnout: Paradise* and 2012's reboot of *The Need For Speed* were open-world racers, but *The Crew* is a genuine Massive Multiplayer Online (MMO) experience.

Its massive map is teeming with story missions, side quests, dynamic events and more. It wants players to explore it, so it makes sense to give players the wide-open and diverse expanse of the USA as its starting



Accelerate into *The Crew* – the largest open-world racer ever created



→ point. According to the game's creative director, Julian Gerighty, *The Crew's* DNA was written by the development staff before they left their last project.

"Ivory Tower was founded by the guys who worked together on *Test Drive: Unlimited*," says Gerighty. "The lead on that project, a guy called Stephane Beley, has been obsessed with the idea of an MMO racer for the last 12 to 15 years. His three passions are cars, MMOs and the challenge of creating a shared world between those two spaces."

In-between those spaces exists the hook to keep players glued to *The Crew*. Ivory Tower's game isn't just a series of races and challenges; it's a living, breathing role-playing game where the player is rewarded for everything they do,

AMERICA AWAITS YOU, DRIVER, AND YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO BE THERE TO SEE IT

and Gerighty says the aim was to break the back of traditional racing games.

"We all felt when we were working on *The Crew* that all racers are capped by a repetition factor," he says. "So it was cracking that problem – 'how can we make something that's a hub for video game racers for the future?' – that led to this game's creation."

The Crew is an ambitious project and plants its flag in the ground early; there are races that are over in mere minutes, but some missions can last up to the better half of an hour. According to the developers, the longest mission in the game takes four hours to complete. Best to empty your bladder and turn off your phone before you attempt it.

But beyond its mods, its challenges and its mission, the main draw of *The Crew* remains its vast and beautiful environment. Simply driving across the map rolls out a plethora of visual delights. America awaits you, driver, and you don't even need to be there to see it.

£39.85, THECREW-GAME.UBI.COM, OUT DEC 2 ON X1, X360, PS4 AND PC



Cause chaos on the streets of Los Santos with up to 30 other car thieves

GRAND THEFT AUTO V

Returning players can move their assets, characters and kit from last-gen platforms. Bring your bling to next gen!

Let's face it: *Grand Theft Auto V* on new generation consoles was always going to happen. What players didn't know was how Rockstar was planning to improve on its open-world behemoth when it landed on Xbox One and PlayStation 4.

Los Santos was always a sprawling metropolis packed to the rafters with quests, activities and equipment for players to get stuck right into, but *GTA V* on next generation takes Rockstar's already impressive vision and goes widescreen. For what it's worth, the PC version – pencilled in for a January 27 release, should the gods

be kind – will look even better than console versions, with support for a colossal 4K resolution, so you can maximise your brand-new 4K screen splurge.

With new vehicles, new weapons, new wildlife and new radio DJ mixes, *GTA V* expands the size of the game's online mode considerably. Up to 30 players can now cause shenanigans in Los Santos, and all in-game upgrades and developer-created content will be available too. Players can transfer their *GTA Online* characters to the new platforms with all their assets and equipment intact.

FROM £47, ROCKSTARGAMES.COM/V/, OUT NOW ON X1 AND PS4



{FOCUS}

Rockstar has beefed up the physics of its vehicles with an enhanced damage system, and returning PS3 or 360 players get rare versions of classic vehicles, such as the Dodo Seaplane



{BEST OF THE REST}

Body-slammng wrestlers, werewolf detectives and more



WWE 2K15 PS4, X1

WWE 2K15 is easily one of the best instalments the series has seen for a while. There are 19 new wrestlers, 30 new creation moves and a 2K Showcase mode to satisfy fans for months.

£44.86, 2K.COM, OUT NOW



The Wolf Among Us PS4, X1

The Wolf Among Us follows werewolf detective Bigby Wolf as he hunts a serial killer in New York. This package has all five last-gen episodes from July.

£25, TELLTALEGAMES.COM, OUT NOW



Lara Croft & The Temple of Osiris PC, PS4, X1

This colourful hack 'n slash is *Tomb Raider* by way of *Diablo*. Up to four players join a treasure hunt where killing enemies and looting are the stated aims.

£25, LARACROFT.COM, OUT DEC 9



Kingdom Hearts HD 2.5 Remix PS3

Square Enix's Disney/*Final Fantasy* mash-ups arrive in HD. HD 2.5 also offers three hours of viewing in *Kingdom Hearts Re:coded*.

FROM £23, KINGDOMHEARTS.COM, OUT DEC 2

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*Halo: Nightfall: 5 episode live-action series is streaming only, and will initially be available on a weekly basis, and then on demand. Xbox One or Windows 8.1 and broadband internet required; ISP fees apply. Halo 5: Guardians Beta: Game disc required. Limited-time beta starts December 27, 2014, and ends January 22, 2015. Must be 17+. Xbox One, broadband internet (ISP fees apply) and Xbox LIVE Gold membership (sold separately) required. Halo: Nightfall and Halo 5: Guardians Beta dates, content, and features subject to change. See www.xbox.com/halo



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

Marvel movies are taking a cultier, more comic tone. The result? Easily the best superhero film of the year

The most delightful thing about the current gen of Marvel movies is that they're not cynical cash grabs launched on ravening comic fanboys. They have heart. Nowhere is that truer than in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, which teams up a talking – albeit monosyllabic – tree, a former pro wrestler, an animated raccoon and the fat one out of *Parks and Rec* to triumphant effect.

James Gunn's interpretation of one of Marvel's wackier ventures mines humour from self-parody without biting the hand that feeds it. It pairs a brilliantly realised, grand universe with a plot that's simple enough for ten-year-olds – but with enough moments of depth to satisfy adults. Perhaps the Tarantino-esque soundtrack is a tad forced, but it makes a change from Marvel's usual relentless symphonic assault. *Guardians* has heart, but it also has brains and a funny bone.

£18 3D BLU-RAY, £13 BLU-RAY, £14 HD DOWNLOAD, OUT NOW



{HD MOMENT}

The Guardians' escape from a prison complex offers vintage Marvel thrills laced with the parody humour that makes this special

{BEST OF THE REST}

Monkeys, bros and a bit of the old ultraviolence...



DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
Like symbolism layered on with a very big trowel? You'll love this visual spectacular, then. The humans are out-acted by CGI monkeys throughout.
£15 BD, £10 DL, OUT NOW



22 JUMP STREET

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
Everyone said *21 Jump Street* was better than they expected. Nobody will say that about this, but it does have plenty of laughs, and off-the-chart bromantic chemistry between its leads.
£13 BD, £14 DL, OUT NOW



THE EXPENDABLES 3

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
This has performances so phoned in, it makes the first two *Expendables* films look like *There Will Be Blood*. It's not outright terrible, but please, let these old men rest now.
£13 BD, £14 DL, OUT DECEMBER 8



KUBRICK: MASTERPIECE COLLECTION

BLU-RAY
From *Lolita* to *Eyes Wide Shut* via *2001* and *A Clockwork Orange*: one man's obsessive quest for movie perfection. See more Xmas-ready boxsets on p81.
£101 BD, OUT NOW



LAMENT

Einstürzende Neubauten convey the pity and horror of the trenches

The 100th anniversary of World War I is looming large in Europe's conscience, and German art-rockers Einstürzende Neubauten have the perfect tribute. *Lament* includes music about everything from the pre-war falling out of Tsar Nicholas and Kaiser Wilhelm to an all-African American regiment nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters. A challenging but rewarding listen, it's a towering mix of pathos, anger and grim humour.

£12 CD, £7 MP3, OUT NOW

{BEST OF THE REST}

No carol singing, thanks



PUBLIC ENEMY

It Takes a Nation of Millions...

PE's polemic-packed petrol bomb of an album still has incredible power and urgency, 26 years on. And now it has a CD of B-sides and a live DVD, too.
£20 CD + DVD, OUT NOW



VELVET UNDERGROUND

Velvet Underground

The Velvets' underrated, entirely lovely third album gets the six-disk boxset treatment – ironic since it sold about six copies when first released.
£52 CD, OUT NOW



PIXIES

Doolittle 25

Another Christmas pressie for gently maturing indie kids, this adds bonus B-sides, Peel sessions and demos to Pixies' raucous breakthrough album.
£12 CD, OUT DECEMBER 1



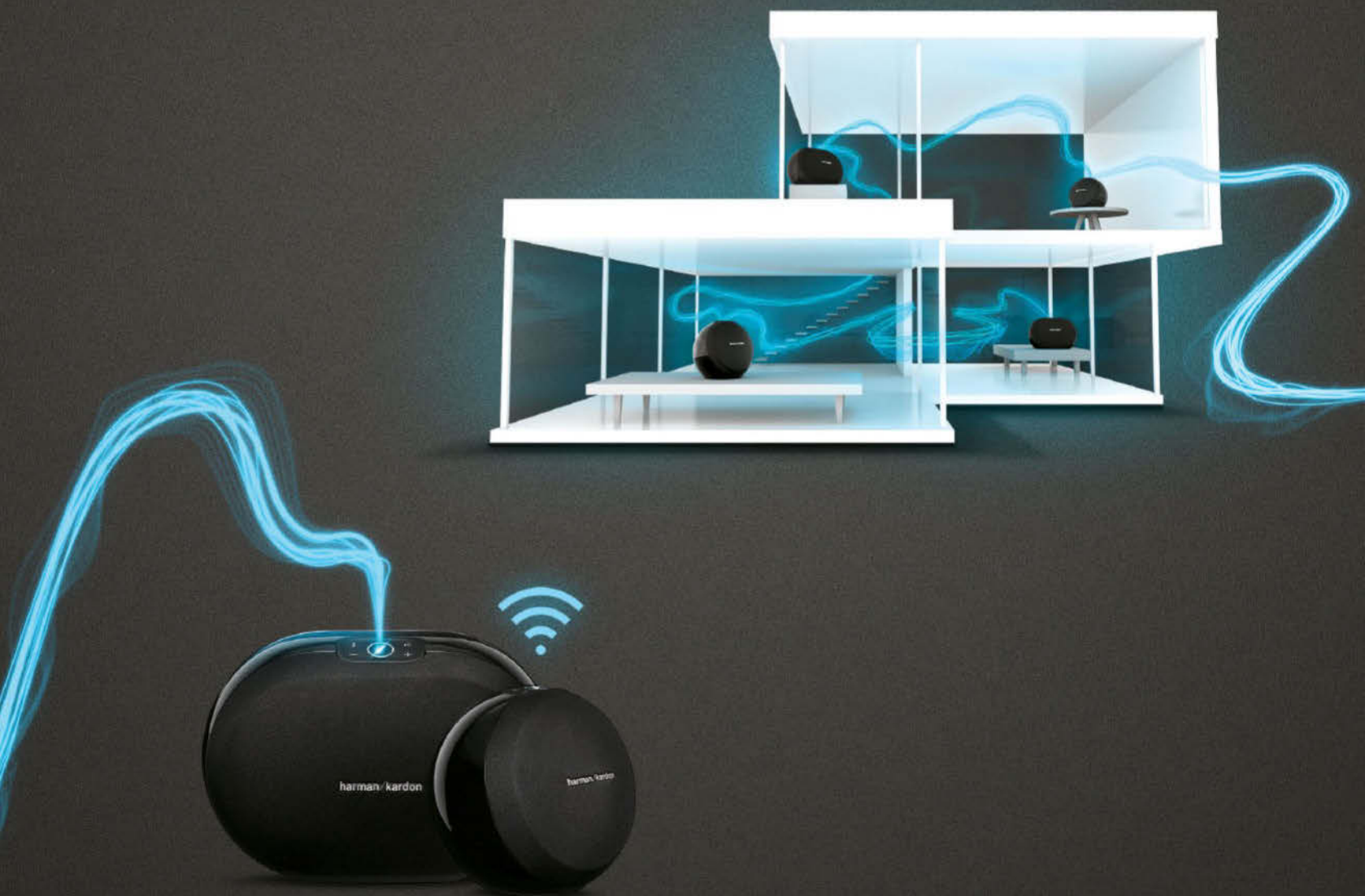
ROYKSOPP

The Inevitable End

Following their epic collab with Robyn, Norway's finest serve up two CDs of thinking-person's electro-pop, dotted with classics both ravey and weepy.
£11 CD, £9 MP3, OUT NOW

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Wireless HD Audio System



App of the month

TIDAL

Stream high-fidelity audio to your mobile devices with this long-awaited musical masterpiece

It feels like we've been waiting on high-fidelity audio to arrive in a streaming package for far too long already. After all, the compressed formats of MP3 are thoroughly outdated, a product of the slow download speeds of a decade ago and long forgotten peer-to-peer file sharing and download services like Napster.

Well, wait no longer, because Tidal is doing exactly that – CD-quality audio streamed to your mobile devices. The layout and feel seem very similar to Spotify: Playlist and sharing functionality is excellent, you can save tracks for offline listening and the

library is at 25 million tracks and growing. That's where the similarities end though, because while Spotify only offers compressed formats, Tidal streams FLAC at 1411kbps – the lossless format of choice for audiophiles. And we'll tell you now, it sounds absolutely fantastic, provided you have some decent audio hardware.

However, the library has some notable holes in it, and the search function isn't particularly smart with misspellings and typos. But for a week's free trial, there's no reason not to give it a go.

£20 A MONTH, IOS, ANDROID & CHROME, TIDALHIFI.COM

{IOS}

An Apple app a day...

**Pennies**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Manage your finances easily. Pennies lets you easily track your daily and monthly spending and set yourself targets and budgets. FREE, GETPENNIES.COM

**CrimsonLand HD**

IOS 6.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Take charge of a wide arsenal of weapons in this top down shooter, with tongue-in-cheek '90s humour and thousands of mutant lizards. FREE, CRIMSONLAND.COM

**Seasonal Cities**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Recommends a range of indoor and outdoor activities and venues for 11 cities around the world, with updates for the changing seasons. FREE, SEASONALCITIES.COM

**The Silent Age: Episode Two**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
The original surprised us with its accessible gameplay, and episode two follows up with an intriguing plot and haunting dystopian wasteland. FREE, THESILENTAGE.COM

**Sleepio**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Teaches you techniques to help you break bad sleeping habits and overcome insomnia without having to resort to drugs. FREE, SLEEPPIO.COM

**ROL**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Snap a picture or a video and ROL will send it on to three random ROL users. If you receive a photo, you can bin it or re-ROL it to other users. FREE, ROLAPP.CO

**Scanbot**

IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Photograph and scan anything into high-quality PDFs and JPEGs, then upload to email or any cloud service. Can be used for QR codes too. £1.49, SCANBOT.IO/EN



{UPDATE}

Playstation 4 2.0 & Remote Play

Sony has opened up Remote Play to include the excellent Xperia Z3, via an app available from Google Play, so you can stream any PS4 game straight to your phone. The new Share Play feature lets you jump into a friend's game even if you don't have a copy yourself. You can then play co-op

or even take over from your friend – with their permission – to help them beat a certain section or show them a hidden easter egg.

Resolution is capped at 720p for both Remote and Share Play, but the whole thing is remarkable. Bravo, Sony.

FREE, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM

THREE SITES FOR JOB HUNTERS

**poachable.co****FOR THE SECRETIVE**

Set up an anonymous profile with who you'd like to work for and where you want to be based. And if one of your favoured employers likes your profile, Poachable will match you up and put you in touch.

**tweetmyjobs.com****FOR SOCIAL HUNTERS**

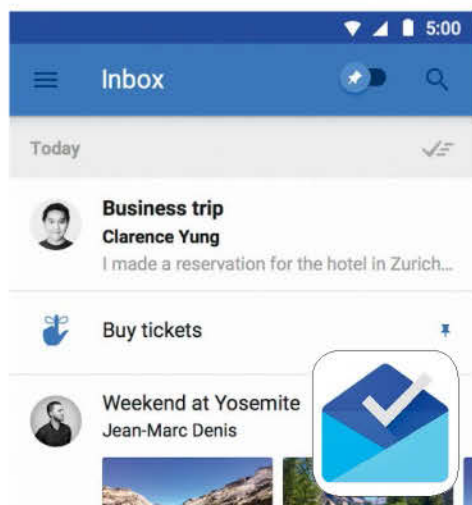
Bringing job searching to the hectic, 140-character world of Twitter. The TweetMyJobs hashtag does literally just that, sharing masses of available jobs from all over the world every single minute.

**monster.co.uk****FOR THE BEST ODDS**

Still the daddy of recruitment websites, Monster is the place for anything job related, from help putting together the right application to thousands of available jobs across the country.

{ANDROID}

Google these killer Android apps



Android in-depth

Inbox by Gmail

ANDROID 4.1+

Leave it to the algorithm kings at Google to take a crack at antiquated inboxes with the sensibly named Inbox – an email app with a difference. It has built-in snooze and reminders, a powerful search function, and it'll even bundle similar messages together, not just in chains but by category so you can clear your inbox with efficiency.

Throw in a nice highlights feature that shows vital info without opening the email, and this is an app with lots of nice surprises. Definitely worth the upgrade for Gmail users. FREE, INBOX.GOOGLE.COM



Hotel Tonight

VERSION VARIES WITH DEVICE

Hotel Tonight lets you book hotels direct from the app, including great last-minute deals and recommended hotels for cities around the world. FREE, HOTELTONIGHT.COM



Snowball Beta

ANDROID 4.3+

Merge all your messaging apps into one well-organised hub. Open it from anywhere on your phone and manage all your messages from one inbox. FREE, TRYSNOWBALL.COM



Camera51

ANDROID 4.0+

Sort out your photo composition. Camera51 analyses faces, scenes, objects and lines within the frame to help you find the perfect frame. FREE, CAMERA51.COM



Record of Agarest: War Zero

ANDROID 3.0+

Over 100 hours of classic JRPG action, *Record of Agarest* combines beautiful 720p graphics with turn-based tactical action. £8.71, HYPERDEVBOX.COM



Firefox Browser for Android

VERSION VARIES WITH DEVICE

Does what it says on the tin, really. Firefox for Android is blazingly fast and stuffed with security additions, tabbed browsing and favourites. FREE, MOZILLA.ORG

{WINDOWS PHONE}

Have a night on the tiles



Blinkbox Music beta

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Stream from a catalogue of over 12 million songs and tune in to a massive range of stations listed by genre and activity – or curate your own. FREE, BLINKBOXMUSIC.COM



NFC Safe

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Encrypt your private data with an NFC tag and AES 256-bit encryption. Not only is it impossible to hack into, but you'll need the tag to even find the data. FREE, WINDOWSPHONE.COM



Lumia Storyteller

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Automatically groups all your photos and videos into individual 'stories'. Storyteller saves them all to your timeline, so you can edit as you please. FREE, APPS.MICROSOFT.COM



Weather Flow

WINDOWS PHONE 8.1+

Beautiful new weather app, bespoke for WP 8.1. The layout is completely customisable, with a variety of live tile options as well. £1.49, WINDOWSPHONE.COM



Truecaller

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Truecaller monitors incoming calls and searches for information on the number, so you won't pick up to telemarketers ever again. FREE, TRUECALLER.COM



Plex

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Organises all your media in one place and lets you stream to any home PC with the help of Plex Media Server. You can even stream directly from YouTube. £3.49, PLEX.TV



Poki

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Nice Pocket client for Windows Phone, in the absence of the real thing. Save articles for offline reading, sharing and keep an archive of your favourites. FREE, POKIAPP.COM

{BLACKBERRY}

Go Blackberry picking



eWallet

BLACKBERRY 10+

Keep your passwords, account IDs, PINs and card numbers secure, all inside eWallet. It can even generate encrypted passwords for you. £7.50, ILIUMSOFT.COM



Colourless

BLACKBERRY 10+

A great electronic soundtrack powers waves of polygonal shapes, which you must dodge. Simple but highly addictive, in an *Asteroids* sort of way. FREE, COLOURLESSGAME.COM



HandyChords

BLACKBERRY 10+

Easy to use interface and extensive chord charts for seven different instruments. You can listen to the chord and see them in tabbed format. £3.50, NEONWAY.COM



Sachesi

BLACKBERRY 10+

Sachesi lets you search through your apps, install and uninstall firmware and edit files. You can create a full back-up and system restore if needed. £2.50, QTNESS.COM



LockBook

BLACKBERRY 10+

LockBook protects your contacts behind a layer of encryption, so anyone who wants to access them will need a password. Simple. FREE, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM



Email Organizer

BLACKBERRY 10+

Create folders and automatic rulesets for each email and this app will file them into the correct places as they arrive, saving you the hassle. £0.75, APPLANET.INFO

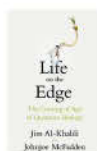


3D Tic-Tac-Toe

BLACKBERRY 10+

Unlike regular 2D noughts and crosses, the 3D version is far more complex. Perfect for brain training and those who like a challenge. FREE, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

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TO READ



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Manchester United's infamous hard-man is unsurprisingly frank, but also finds room for a superb deconstruction of the art of modern management. £6.99, OUT NOW

Life on the Edge

JIM AL-KHALILI & JOHNJOE MCFADDEN

The authors present a fascinating case for the link between Quantum Mechanics and life. £6.99, OUT NOW

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PATRICIA CORNWELL

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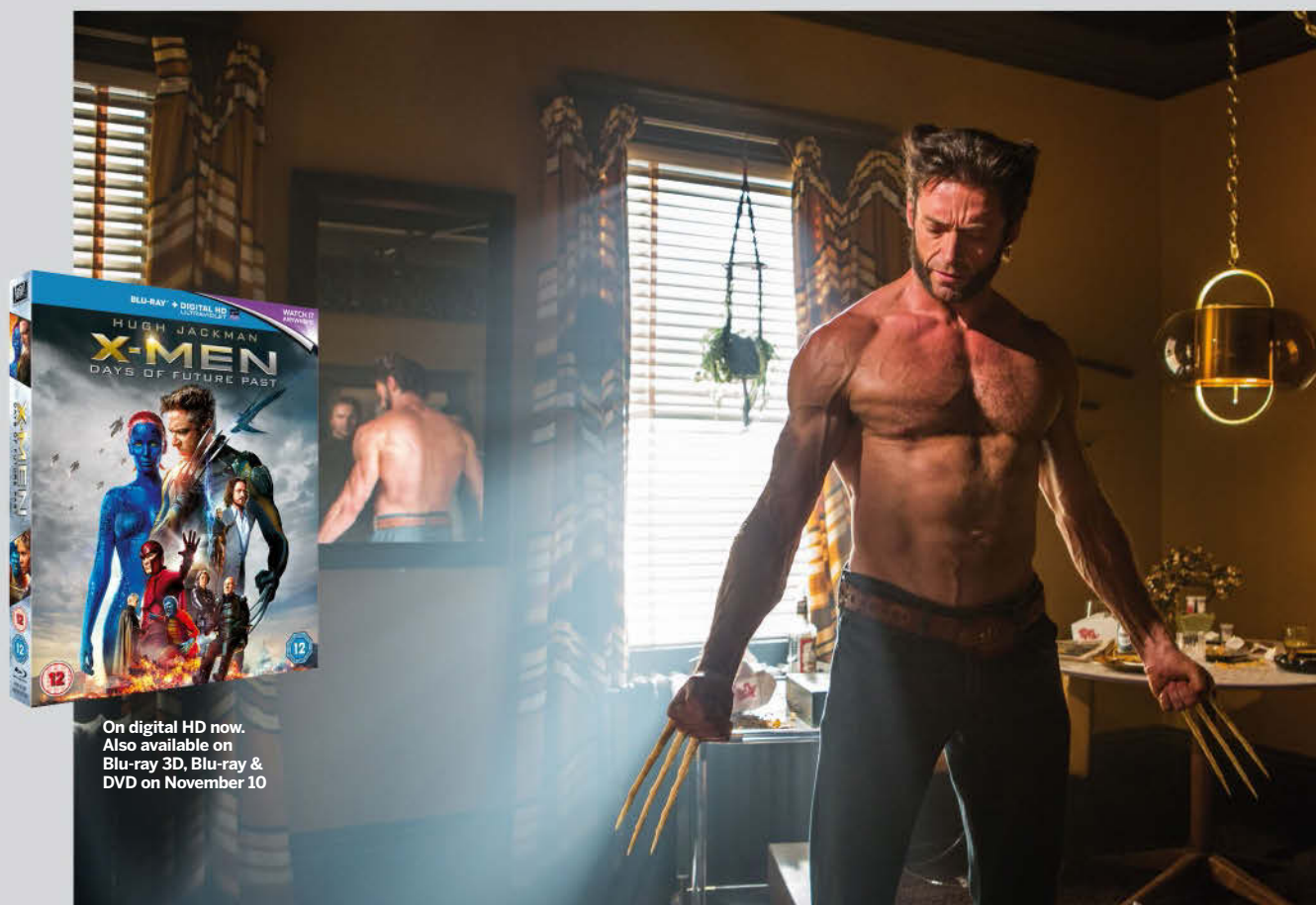
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VIEWSONIC HAS TEAMED UP WITH 20TH CENTURY FOX HOME ENTERTAINMENT to celebrate the Blu-ray and DVD launch of the rather excellent *X-Men: Days of Future Past*. Until January 31 2015 ViewSonic will be providing the movie, free accessories and prize-draw entry to win an amazing holiday to Dubai with all purchases of their PJD5533w, PJD7820HD and Pro8400 projectors.

To celebrate these great promotions, ViewSonic and T3 are giving you the chance to win a ViewSonic Pro8400, *X-Men: Days of Future Past* on Blu-ray and a 100-inch 16:9 projector screen to view it on.

TO ENTER, HEAD TO T3.COM/COMPETITIONS

For more information on the ViewSonic Pro8400 and other promotions, head to VIEWSONICEUROPE.COM/XMEN

Opinion

TECH STEEL FROM THE ANVIL OF T3'S COMMENT-MONGERS

{THIS MONTH}

Michael Baxter's tech turmoil
Chris Smith's bargain hunting
Duncan Bell's news addiction
Pete Dreyer's Apple Watch enigma

Edited by Duncan Bell

MICHAEL BAXTER



{INSIGHT}

MAXIMUM DISRUPTION

A new book called *iDisrupted* claims that business, the economy, and even human nature are about to see huge changes, as Michael Baxter explains

Look forward a few years and the world will be a very different place. Many of the giant companies with which we are currently familiar will have departed this place and joined the great stock exchange in the sky.

iDisrupted is a book about disruptive technology – technology that will wreak havoc and cause great changes. Among the predictions: if you were to write a list of the world's 100 largest companies in 2012, and revisit it in 2043, only 19 or so of those firms would still appear in that chart. The book also claims that the rate of innovation is set to accelerate at an astonishing speed.

Here are two reasons why... Firstly, there's Moore's Law – the observation that computer power doubles every 24 months. In 1965, Intel's Gordon Moore predicted that the number of transistors on an integrated circuit would double every two years. If the family saloon car had seen its top speed increase on a similar trajectory, today it would travel at roughly ten times the speed of light.

Faster computers matter. When the human genome project got underway, progress was so slow that critics said it would take more than a hundred years to complete. Eventually it cost \$2.7 billion and took 13 years to sequence →



→ the first human genome. Thanks in part to more powerful computers, it now costs just a few thousand dollars and the process can be completed in a matter of hours.

The second reason is the internet. Ideas build upon ideas. No medium in history can match the internet for facilitating the spread of ideas across the globe.

So why will so many companies fail? Firstly, this has happened before. Of the world's top companies in 1912, only 19 were still on that list in 1995; 29 had gone bust. History is set to repeat itself, but the next cycle will be a compressed version of the last. Oil, energy, banking and the car industry are all vulnerable. The car industry? Surely not! Why?

Firstly, it's already happening. The rate of car use is still growing, but at a slowing rate. Experts predict that by 2050 the number of automobiles in Germany will fall by 50%. Then there are self-driving cars. The relationship between driver and car is quite intimate. The car is like an extension of ourselves. With self-driving machines, something will be lost. Cars will just be things.

Then throw the rise of the sharing economy into the mix. The economics of self-driving cars combined with lift sharing

NO MEDIUM CAN MATCH THE INTERNET FOR FACILITATING THE SPREAD OF IDEAS

will be so compelling that people will start questioning whether they really need a car to drive. There's a noticeable attitude change too. The Millennial Generation (that's people born within a few years of the year 2000) are typically more attached to their smartphone than they are to their car.

Electric cars will cause disruption as well. The car industry is somewhat cynical about electric cars. However, the combination of nanotechnologies – such as carbon nanotubes and graphene – with lithium-ion, lithium-sulfur batteries and new superconductors will revolutionise energy storage.

Technology will transform business, the economy and may even change what it is to be human. This is both exciting and terrifying. Few seem to appreciate the changes that are occurring. Stepping into this new technological age blind is a very dangerous thing to do. That is why few things are more important than understanding this new world. *Michael is co-author of iDisrupted, on sale now in both e-book and conventional formats. See idisrupted.com for more*

CHRIS SMITH



{STATESIDE}

BRITISH VALUE(S)

Think you can bag a bargain by heading across the pond? Think again: it turns out it often pays to stay put

Everything's so much cheaper in the United States, isn't it? Helpfully, I'm constantly reminded of this by friends and family mithering me to bring their entire Christmas shopping with me on jaunts back to Blighty. Yes, little Jacob's American PS4 will save you £60 mate, but it sure is a pain in the arse for me to get it through airport security in my hand luggage.

Seriously though, I don't mind facilitating equality as a part-time console mule, because native Brits get shafted when it comes to new tech. It seems, as a general rule, you can take the US RRP of any product, convert the currencies and add 25% to get the amount in Sterling. And that's if you're lucky.

For example, a SIM-free iPhone 6 starts at \$649 (+\$39 sales tax), which works out at

around £430. In the UK the same handset would cost you £539. You could understand the difference if it was shipped from Apple HQ, but your brand new handset has more than likely spent as much time in Coventry as it has in Cupertino.

Even digital software subscriptions, which require no importing or exporting whatsoever, are way more expensive. Consumer champion Which? recently pointed out that Adobe Creative Cloud is £112 more expensive in the UK, while Microsoft Office Professional is £89 cheaper in the US. There's just no logical explanation for that other than these companies straight up taking the piss out of Brits.

Now I know what you're thinking, but before you start working on that Green Card visa application just to save a few quid on the latest gadgets, you should know that whatever is gained on hardware will be instantly lost to greedy service providers across the pond. If you want an iPhone on a decent contract in the UK, the handset itself is mostly subsidised by the network. A 16GB iPhone 6 on EE with 10GB data is £48 a month and £50 upfront! The same deal on Verizon Wireless costs the equivalent of £88 a month plus £120 upfront.

Likewise, you might be able to get a much cheaper HD telly in the US, but you still need something to watch on it. I recently signed up to what I thought was a pretty good TV/internet bundle with Comcast, but it wasn't that good after all. HD channels are \$10 a month, a DVR with a third-world user interface and a piss poor on-demand selection is another \$10/pm. The broadband modem is \$8/pm to rent. And how could I forget the myriad of non-descript fees and taxes. And then at the end of 12 months it all goes up by \$50 too!

The trouble here is that there's very little choice for most consumers. The strength of the communication giants like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast in their various territories means there's no incentive for them to offer consumers good value. Brits have more options, and that keeps BT, Virgin and Sky on each other's toes.

In a perfect world, you want to buy your tech wares from the United States and use them in the UK. The gadget savings can recoup the flight costs and Miami is absolutely lovely at this time of year. Or, you could just do what my mates do and acquire a free international courier.

By the way, I'm coming home again pretty soon, so the last day for Christmas orders is December 10...

Chris is one of the few British permanent residents of Miami without liver spots





{TRUTH}

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Feeling depressed, anxious, angry and can't put your finger on why? It could be you've been mainlining too many online downers...

My name is Duncan, and I'm a newsaholic. I'm also like a chocaholic, but for booze. But that's a column for another day.

Pretty much from the moment all the broadsheets went online, I started reading them. At the time I thought I could handle it, but before I knew it I was chasing the fix in every spare moment I had. And some time around the second Gulf War, the quality started to go waaay down. It was cut with partisan fury. Its potency was upped, but what had once been a stimulant was now a major downer.

After ten years of consumption I was constantly stressed, paranoid, and my IQ had diminished by a good 27 points or so.

Rolling bad news was just the gateway drug, though. Somewhere along the line, I'd started reading the comments 'below the line'. I'd said I never would, but I was weak.

Before I knew it, I was mainlining a diet of conspiracy theory, ad hominem attack, confected outrage and relentless negativity. We're talking about the commentary of people who can work an inflammatory reference to Israel and Palestine into a discussion on the best way to make an omelette. People of such moral and political certainty, they make Isis look like the Church of England on a particularly wobbly day.

Of course, once I was hopelessly addicted, *The Times* started to demand actual money if I wanted to read it – I know, shocking, right? I happily paid. Then the *Telegraph* did too. Interestingly, this was shortly before it started to turn into a weird amalgam of BuzzFeed ("You won't believe how this Home Counties man saved money on his stamp duty with this one weird trick!") and, well, the *Daily Telegraph*. But I still handed over my hard-earned.



Will the *Guardian* start wanting payment for its sanity-wrecking services next? I'll no doubt cough up if it does. The only way I could sink deeper into addiction is by chugging those single-issue, "special interest" political news sites, where the *real* loons, bores and creeps share their thoughts.

From years of reading all this crap, I know that the readers of the *Guardian* and the *Telegraph* are essentially the same, but coming from the more bonkers fringes of the left and right respectively. The ones on the *Times* are more like a collection of retired dunderheads, eking out their days talking nonsense to each other. I don't mind them so much, actually.

Who can blame them for being mad, or boring? There's a lot of bad news in the world, and they can't wait to give it to us. They chuck nuggets of grim tidings to the ravening online mob, ready for them to be ripped to pieces and noisily regurgitated.

So I have had enough of being up to date. It's time to kick the habit and become blissfully ignorant, like a reader of the *Daily Mail's* website. I'm going to kick my news habit. Not now, but soon. How about Lent? *Duncan is Future's tech lifestyle editor*



{GET INVOLVED} HAVE YOUR SAY...

To read more of our views on tech, the web, life and more, head to T3.com/opinion.

You want to add your voice to the debate? Look no further than: [Facebook.com/t3mag](https://www.facebook.com/t3mag) or [Twitter.com/t3dotcom](https://twitter.com/t3dotcom)



{FINALLY}

TIME TO SHINE?

The Apple Watch is due to appear just the other side of Christmas, but what lies in store for Apple's shiny new toy?

Now that the dust has settled following the announcement of the Apple Watch, allow me to rile you all up again. Everyone has had a chance to have their say, and despite the wild enthusiasm for it before it actually existed, the post-unveiling reaction was apathetic at best – not a thousand tubs of vanilla ice cream at a Damien Rice gig apathy, but the public certainly seemed underwhelmed.

People I speak to offer myriad reasons for not buying one, but you know what the biggest one is? "I wouldn't wear it instead of my watch." And it's not hard to see why.

At the time of writing, the rumoured price of the 18-carat gold Apple Watch Edition will be a chunky \$5,000 – the sort of price you'd pay for a nice Tag, or a lovely Omega Aquaterra. At that sort of price a watch is an investment, the sort of thing you pass down to a child on their 18th birthday. Now, I don't have children, and I don't know how they would react if I gave them my totally out of date Apple Watch Edition to mark their coming of age, but I'm going to guess they'd be pretty miffed. Sorry Tim, I'm out.

We've been here before though. Many years ago – before I found my way into T3 via the air vents, I should stress – I was one of many who guffawed at the iPad. "It's ridiculous!", "It's just a big iPhone, except you can't make calls!" That sort of thing.

And then we all got taken by surprise. Apple proceeded to wrench open a special gap in the market through brilliant design and even better advertising, and now here I sit, surrounded by a metric tonne of naff Android tablets. With the Sport version of the Apple Watch starting at a more reasonable \$349, who's to say that the Apple Watch won't 'do an iPad'? Only time will tell...

Pete is Future's lifestyle technology writer



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- Windows 7 Professional 64-bit pre-installed + Windows 8.1 Pro DVD
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7. Greenline HP Elitebook 6930p Refurb Laptop

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- Windows 7 Professional.

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*Terms and Conditions apply for cash back offer, please refer to product page on www.misco.co.uk for full details. Prices are correct at time of going to print, but subject to change without notice. Prices include VAT but exclude delivery.

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integral 16GB

13.

12.

9.

2 NUMBERS, 1 PHONE



QUAD CORE

8. Tier 1 Lenovo Thinkpad T520 Refurb Laptop

- Intel Core i5-2520M (2.50GHz) processor
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- Windows 7 Home.

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9. GoClever Quantum 450 Android Dual Sim Smartphone

- Powerful Broadcom BCM 23550 Quadcore processor
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10. Cello 10" Quad Core Tablet PC

- Action Quad Core 1.3GHz processor
- 1GB RAM, 8GB Memory
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cello

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11. Lenovo ThinkCentre E73 Small Form Factor PC

- Intel Pentium G3220 3 GHz processor
- 4GB RAM / 500GB hard drive
- DVD + RW
- Microsoft Windows 7 Professional 64-bit Edition / Windows 8.1 Pro 64-bit Edition downgrade – pre-installed: Windows 7.

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lenovo FOR THOSE WHO DO.

£257.99
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12. Plantronics Backbeat Fit – Green

- Rugged design with P2i sweat-proof coating
- On-ear controls for calls and music
- Included neoprene armband secures your smartphone and reverses to store headphones.

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plantronics

£71.99
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13. Integral Neon 16GB USB Flash Drive – Pink

- Lightweight and slim design
- PC and Mac compatible
- 2 year warranty.

Order: 223431

integral

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Inc VAT





PRESENT HEAVEN

Gadget Gift Guide ❄️

LET'S BE HONEST, CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR SPENDING. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GROW UP. AND SEEING AS IT'S PROBABLY YOUR CHRISTMAS OVERTIME THAT'LL PAY FOR LITTLE JONNY'S LATEST XBOX GAME, SURELY DAD DESERVES A TREAT TOO?

AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT THIS GIFT GUIDE'S INTENDED FOR. WE HAVE IDEAS FOR EVERY BUDGET AND INTEREST, ALL PICKED TO BRING A SMILE TO THE FACE OF ANY TECH-LOVING MALE. THESE ARE THE ITEMS THE T3 STAFFERS WOULD MOST LIKE TO FIND UNDER THEIR TREES ON CHRISTMAS DAY, WHETHER IT'S SANTA, OR MASTERCARD, THAT DELIVERS THEM...

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WHO NEEDS FOUR WHEELS WHEN YOU CAN HAVE SO MUCH FUN ON TWO? p74

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YOU'RE SO LIKE GORDON RAMSAY, IT'S [CENSORED] AMAZING! p78

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ALL THE TECH YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR WINTER HIBERNATION A SUCCESS p80

WORDS: NICK ODANTZIS, TOM DENNIS,
DUNCAN BELL, PETE DREYER
SET DESIGN: TOM ASHTON-BOOTH

IT ALL STARTS THIS WAY →

OUTDOORS



1/ CULINARY SURVIVAL MANUAL

Food for the braaaaaains

The Art of Eating Through the Zombie Apocalypse is the ideal companion for anyone braving the wild outdoors, offering essential survival tips and recipe ideas. £10.63, amazon.co.uk



2/ THE ESSENTIAL GOGGLES

Nike Vision Transition Goggles

Love snowsports? Sleep easy knowing the next time you hit the slopes you're not going to get blinded by reflected sun rays. These goggles give you great views while keeping you dry. £290, nikevision.com



3/ MULTI-PURPOSE SNOWBOARD

Ultracraft Splitboard

Snowboard meets skis with the splitboard, allowing you to choose whichever suits your mood – split it and climb the mountain, then put it back together and fire down the hill. \$1,199 (£750.48), jonessnowboards.com



4/ TENT FOR THE LAZY HIKER

Heimplanet The Cave

The Cave is the perfect antithesis to the conventional procedure of putting up tents – just inflate the built-in air-frame with a pump and you'll have shelter for up to three people in seconds. £700, heimplanet.com



5/ LAMP

Petzl Tikka RXP

Light your way through the woods at night with the über-powerful Petzl Tikka RXP headlamp, which gives you 215 lumens of power, an ambient light sensor and reactive lighting settings. £80, petzl.com



6/ HELMET TO BE SEEN IN

Picture Organic Hubber helmet

This snow sports helmet certainly ticks the 'wearable' box, looking both functional and fashionable, with front and side vents to keep you cool when you start to knock out a sweat. £90, picture-organic-clothing.com



7/ GIZMO-LADEN WATCH

Casio GWA1000-1A

Jason Bourne would probably wear this watch. Time zone changes are available at a flick and it's full of cool features like individual hand motors, solar power and radio-controlled atomic accuracy. £500, gshock.com



8/ STURDY CAMERA

Ricoh WG-M1

Like a GoPro on steroids, the Ricoh WG-M1 can take a real pounding and boasts 1080p video at 30fps, 14MP still images, a top-mounted screen and wi-fi – for easy file transfer. £200, ricoh-imaging.co.uk



9/ LIFE-SAVING JACKET

North Face Fuse Brigadine Jacket

This awesome jacket has a breathable membrane to prevent water getting in but let sweat escape, plus an anti-avalanche reflector to help rescue teams locate you in your time of need. £520, thenorthface.co.uk



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

SylvanSport GO Adventure Trailer

The versatile SylvanSport GO Adventure Trailer is like a campsite on wheels. It's easy to convert it into a tent for up to four people, or use it to transport your gear and bikes. £8,994, campingtrailer.co.uk





GADGET GIFT HOT LIST

COOL TECH THAT'S COOLER OUTDOORS



BIOLITE KETTLECHARGE
The KettleCharge turns heat into power, so you can charge your tech while you brew a cuppa. £160, biolitestove.com



BRUNTON REVOLT 9000
Offers up to six smartphone charges, as well as water- and shock protection. £80, brunton.com



POWERMONKEY EXPEDITION
The Expedition gives tons of battery power via solar panels, mains and a hand crank. £450, powertraveller.com



GOAL ZERO LIGHTHOUSE 250
This lantern supplies your tech with free energy via a crank and solar charging. £60, goalzero.com



FREELOADER ISIS
The Isis gives up to three phone's-worth of power from a single charge. £65, poweryouradventures.com

FITNESS



1/ TREADMILL

Technogym Spazio Forma

Essential for maximising your cardio without having to endure the outdoors. The large display makes controlling your workouts easy, and you can even track your workouts over bluetooth. £3,000, technogym.com





2/ THERMAL PROTECTION

Under Armour Engage Coldgear

Frozen digits are the bane of all cold-weather activities, so these will sort you right out. The fleecy material will warm your hands up without making them sweat. £20, underarmour.co.uk



3/ HEART MONITOR

Scosche RHYTHM+

A heart-rate monitor is an ideal companion for fitness tracking, and the Scosche RHYTHM+ is one of the best. It's sweatproof, waterproof, and fits comfortably round your arm. £75, scosche.com



4/ GET THE BOOT

Nike Mercurial Superfly CR7

Christiano Ronaldo wears these, so expect a healthy dose of speed, pro looks, and the ability to fake an injury at any time. Also comes in five sole types for any playing field. £250, nike.com



5/ BEAUTIFUL BOOTS

Nike Air Zoom Structure 18

These beauties from Nike walk a fine line between fashion and performance. The Dynamic Support sole increases stability and the Air structure gives you added power with each step. £100, nike.com



6/ BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES

Plantronics Backbeat Fit

These bluetooth headphones are lightweight, lurid and have huge battery life, so you can listen to your music wirelessly even on lengthy Marathon-spec runs. £78, plantronics.com



7/ CLEVER FOOTIE TECH

Adidas Smartball & Speed_cell

Kick a ball like a pro. The Speed_Cell measures your pitch performance and the Smartball gives you real-time feedback on your kicking technique. £220 (miCoach Smartball), £52 (Speed_cell), adidas.co.uk



8/ FIT MEETS PHONE

Samsung Gear Fit

With its heart-rate sensor, the Fit tracks your exercises and gives you real-time advice. Paired with a Samsung phone, it alerts you to incoming calls, texts and emails too. £169, samsung.com



9/ SMART SPECS

Zeal Optics Z3 Live

More like a smartphone strapped to your face than a pair of goggles, you can instantly view speed, altitude and distance, plus check calls and texts as you speed downhill. £500, zealoptics.com



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

WaterRower A1

The WaterRower A1 rowing machine makes zipping along the river in your bedroom an actual thing. Perfect for practicing your technique, even if you're still in your pants. £750, waterrower.co.uk

STEP UP FOR FREE

TOP FREE APPS TO HELP YOU RAISE YOUR GAME



STRAVA

Like regular running or cycling, but with the added incentive of trying to thrash people you've never even met. Free (iOS or Android)



MATCHPINT

MatchPint helpfully shows you all the pubs in the vicinity that are playing the match you want to watch. Free (iOS or Android)



BBC SPORT

Watch live events, catch-up afterwards, check the scores and instantly get the notifications you need. Free (iOS or Android)



RUNKEEPER

The ideal aid to improve your running. Runkeeper tracks your exercise, showing speed, distance and more. Free (iOS or Android)



FITOCRACY

Like your own personal trainer. No matter your goal, Fitocracy helps you to track it, and then do better next time. Free (iOS or Android)

TECH DAD



1/ ARCADE-A-LIKE GAMING

Ion iCade iPad case

Slap an iPad into this solid plastic case and you're instantly transported back to coin-op glory days of yore. Brilliant for sharing nostalgic gaming pleasure with the kids. £30, onaudio.com



2/ HANDHELD GAMING

Razer Junglecat

If touchscreen controls don't do it for you when it comes to mobile gaming, then the Junglecat's for you, offering a stocky controller, speakers and an assortment of gaming buttons. £10, razerzone.com



3/ JUMP FOR JOY

FlyBar Master Pogo stick

The 'stick used to beat the world pogo record not once, but twice, no less. It's got more bounce than Zebedee, and is robust enough for dad to use after his Christmas dinner. £150, flybar.com



4/ ELECTRONICS STARTER KIT

Littlebits Base kit

Interactive design without solder or wiring. The starter kit includes motors, dimmers and sensors, with projects including a buzzer and powered three-wheeler to get started on. \$99 (£62.21), littlebits.cc



5/ BOUNCING BOT

Sphero Ollie

This chunky, brightly coloured 'bot packs a speedy punch, zipping about at up to 14mph. You can use one thumb on your iDevice to drive and the other to pull off spins, hops and other tricks. £79.99, gospheo.com



6/ CHILD'S PLAY

Ubooly plush toy

An interactive friend for kids. Telling jokes and stories, playing games and helping with daily tasks, Ubooly's plushie is also a neat way of safely cushioning a device for carefree playtime. £10, ubooly.com



7/ RC DIGGER

LEGO Wheel Loader and Technics

Robotic and radio-controlled fun abounds with LEGO's Linux-powered advanced sets. Let the kids while away the holiday hours filled with RC action and tons of fun. £169.99, lego.com



8/ MICRO DOLLY

Pico Camera Table Dolly

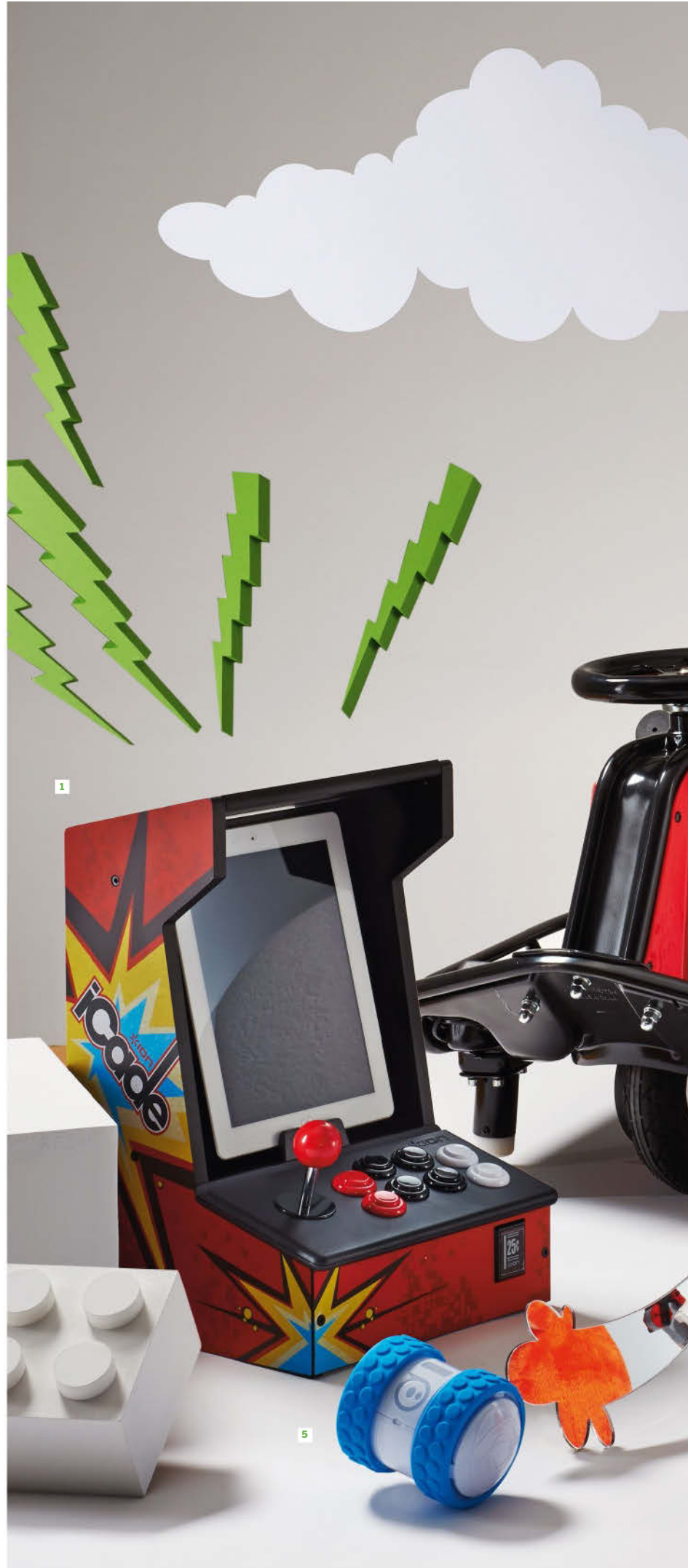
Strap your camera or iDevice into this, the smallest available table dolly, and you and your kids can capture tracking shots for awesome home-movie production. £40, photographyandcinema.com



9/ DRIFT KING

Razor Crazy Cart

A conventional go-kart, until you slam the drift system into action. Taking corners sideways, drifting diagonally and spinning out totally has never been so much fun for the kids (or you...). £399, razor.com





BOREDOM BUSTERS

RELIEVE THE TEDIOUS WITH THESE DAD DIVERSIONS



**TÄLJA
WOODCARVING KIT**
Lose your mind (so to speak) for hours with this beautiful carving kit. \$67.66 (£42.55), hellotalja.com



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WILD BEER**
A 9% Belgian-style beer infused with apple juice and more hops than *Watership Down*. £8, wildbeerco.com



**HUNTER MINI AUTO
UMBRELLA**
Outdoor toys rock. Xmas weather doesn't. Keep dry with this firm and portable broolly. £30, hunterboots.com



**STANLEY CLASSIC
HAMMERTONE GREEN**
Make any late-night toy construction bearable with a cheeky swig from one of these. £16, stanley-pmi.com



MAKR KEY
Open any bottle with a Makr key – designed to blend in to your keychain for casual boozin' on the go. \$11 (£6.92), makr.com

MORE DAD →

CHRISTMAS

GADGET GIFT GUIDE

20 + 14

TECH DAD



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

iCandy Raspberry

Dads know that prams are important. Especially prams that are super light, speedy, cool and have a tighter turning circle than a London black cab.

£420, icandyworld.com

AUDIO NEXT →

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Darkness that bursts into life with every backlit LED. 4K picture quality that's truly in a class of its own. Introducing the VIERA AX902, available in 55" and 65" models from mid-November in specialist retailers. It's the best television we've ever made, and you've never seen anything like it.

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VIERA
BEYOND SMART TV

4K
ULTRA HD TV

AUDIOPHILE



1/ POCKET-POWER

i-box Slix Bluetooth speaker

A rugged, rechargeable and ridiculously small bluetooth streamer with a pair of 1.5-inch full-range drivers for bass punchy enough to blow a hole in your Levi's. £49.99, iboxstyle.com



2/ SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Monster iSport Intensity

Cracking performance with an Apple-friendly inline remote, these sweat-resistant earbuds let in just enough environmental noise to stop you riding under lorries. £79.95, shopmonsterproducts.co.uk



3/ BRINGS THE BOOM

Monster DNA

Light, affordable, and delivering the kind of full, bombastic audio and big-ass bass Monster cans are famed for. Available in more colours than we knew actually existed. £139, shopmonsterproducts.co.uk



4/ BIG STREAMS

Jawbone Big Jambox

Twin bass radiators and twin active drivers deliver a huge sound from this compact geometric box of delights. Totally portable and loud enough to ruin any campsite. £199, jawbone.com



5/ WIRELESS WONDER

Sonos PLAY 1

Near-impossible to fault in performance while offering entry into Sonos' audio club at an affordable price, the PLAY 1 delivers a startling sonic scale. £169, sonos.com



6/ VINYL REVIVAL

Mission Aero

No matter where it sits in your living room, the Aero floods it in immersive audio thanks to 3D signal processing, no fewer than six drivers and a 12cm sub woofer. £499, mission.co.uk



7/ SLICK STREAMER

Sony SRX 5

Classic, clean Sony design with a 20W, 2.1 channel speaker system, bluetooth and NFC. Sony jams all of its best audio goodies into one compact streamer. £119, sony.co.uk



8/ BEST BUDS

KEF M200

Hi-fi quality via in-ear design, KEF's M200's deliver the kind of detailed and accurate sound normally found in premium over-ear cans. High-grade bud, so to speak. £149, kef.com



9/ VINYL REVIVAL

Rega RP3

Rega's award-winning turntable is high-performance, but elegant with it. The 24V motor is uniquely tuned for each unit, minimising vibration and giving you that clean, authentic vinyl sound. £475, rega.co.uk



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

Crystal Cable Arabesque Minissimo

Designed to enhance both sound delivery and living-room aesthetic, the price tag comes from the five-star mix of precision tweeters, woofers and bespoke ceramic. Unbelievable audio. £9,999, crystalcable.com





ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

WHAT'S BEEN HOT IN T3'S EARS THIS YEAR



SHELLAC – DUDE INCREDIBLE

The indie Led Zep serve meticulous tightness and ribald lyrics about manliness and “mayors and surveyors”.



WAR ON DRUGS – LOST IN THE DREAM

Lifted beyond the clichés of gasoline-and-girls Americana by Adam Granduciel’s all-consuming lyrics.



ROYAL BLOOD – ROYAL BLOOD

The bass-and-drum duo shake their ‘girl done me wrong’ tales on hefty garage-rock and sonic wig-outs.



TODD TERJE – IT'S ALBUM TIME

Segueing from chintzy lounge-jazz to colossal EDM space-disco, the Norwegian producer’s debut had us dancing.



ST VINCENT – ST VINCENT

A cerebral funk, rock and pop meld that aims for the experimental. What Prince should sound like in 2014.

PETROLHEADS NEXT! ➔

PETROL HEAD



1/ EXPLOSIVE CHARGE

AirWheel Q3

Guess what we found? That's right, a bonkers battery-powered unicycle. Learning to ride this crazy contraption will leave you battered and bruised. But it's a stupid amount of fun. £800, airwheel.net



2/ ENTS ON THE GO

Pioneer DA120 with Apple CarPlay

Cutting-edge ents in your old smoker? Not a problem thanks to this all-singing, app-enabled, Apple CarPlay-toting, Google-mappin' head unit. £350, halfords.com



3/ GPS TRACKER

Spot Trace GPS

If your goodies can be pinched, tracking their location could come in very handy. This clever matchbox-sized gadget enables worldwide tracking from any web browser. £95, findmespot.com



4/ RC CAR

Tamiya Ferrari LaFerrari

Can't afford a £1 million LaFerrari? This remote-control Tamiya rep is 1/10th scale – and cheaper than 1/10th the price of the real thing. £225, hobbyco.net



5/ HD DASHCAM

Cobra CDR 840

Futile finger pointing. That's usually what happens in the event of an accident. Unless, that is, you've got Cobra's handy dashcam recording proceedings in glorious GPS-logged HD detail. £149, cobra.com



6/ TRACK DAY

PalmerSport Track Experience

PalmerSport's track days are the real deal, with single-seat racers, Le Mans prototypes and even some Land Rover Defender mudplugging. £545, palmersport.com



7/ DIY DELUXE

Halfords 200 Piece Socket Set

Even in this day and age cars have oily bits that break. The solution is this epic 200-piece set, made in high-quality chrome vanadium steel. £150, halfords.com



8/ F1 HELMET

Arai GP-5WV

Get a little Lewis Hamilton in your life with Arai's GP-5WV. It's closely related to the lid used by half of today's F1 grid, including Britain's boy wonder. Not cheap, but you've only got one head! £820, whyarai.co.uk



9/ BEAT A PATH HOME

TomTom Go 6000

If you want the best satnav, buy a TomTom. It really is that simple. The Go 6000 is TomTom's finest, complete with a six-inch touchscreen, voice control and lifetime access to HD traffic data. Drive on. £249, tomtom.com



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

Vesaro Racing Simulator Stage 5

That price is not a misprint. But this thing has triple Samsung screens, a pukka racing bucket and a seatbase with full-motion physics. £18,000, libertygames.co.uk

STOCKING FILLERS

TOP TECHIE GIFTS FOR £50 OR LESS



HAYNES BUILD YOUR OWN ENGINE

In every petrolhead is a frustrated F1 engineer. This model engine will keep him off the sherry. £30, halfords.com



ALCOSENSE DIGITAL BREATHALYSER LITE

Speaking of booze, stay within the law this Xmas with this handy digital breathalyzer. £40, alcosense.co.uk



SANDISK CONNECT FLASH DRIVE 32GB

Fancy streaming movies to multiple in-car devices? Get yourself one of these. £50, sandisk.co.uk



EE BUZZARD

Looks like a can. Sits in cupholders. Delivers a 4G Wi-Fi hotspot with support for up to four devices. Simple! £50, shop.ee.co.uk



BRUNTON TORPEDO

Charge two items from a 12V car socket, plus the 2800mAh battery means you can juice up devices anywhere. £40, bruntoneurope.com



CM STORM

Coming Soon... The Ultimate Typing Experience



NOVATOUCH TKL

HYBRID CAPACITIVE SWITCH KEYBOARD



coolermaster.co.uk

ebuyer.com
technology delivered


CCL
www.cclonline.com

SCAN
computers

amazon

OVERCLOCKERS UK

ART ATTACK

JAZZ UP YOUR WALLS
WITH THESE PRIZE PICS



CRAIG & KARL

Creative collaboration from an illustrative duo working on either side of the pond. This one's a shoe-in favourite. weoccupy.co.uk



HEY STUDIO

Pastel loveliness meets block hard lines. Typical of Spanish designers, Hey Studio and their wondrous artworks. heyshop.es



ANTHONY BURRILL

The daddy of sloganeering posters, and still the best. Impart some wisdom upon your walls. anthonyburrill.com



HELLOVON

Von's animal and people portraits are the type of bold illustration that makes people point and go 'wow'. shopvon.com



MALIKA FAVRE

Characters, contrast and witty illustrative innuendo is all found in the stunning artwork of Malika Favre. malikafavre.com



THE OFFICE



1/ DEFINITELY NOT MUNDANE

Mondaine wall clock

This Swiss-made masterpiece was designed in 1944 and it's only got better with age, with a look that would fit in the office, kitchen, lounge... better get three then. £159, mondaine.com



2/ OFFICE SPACE

Humanscale Float desk

Treat your tired office body with a little respect. Humanscale's desk is height-adjustable, making it an essential piece for those who sit down a lot. £1,200, humanscale.com



3/ SITTING PRETTY

Herman Miller Mirra 2

Splash out on your office space with the Mirra 2: an essential ergonomic chair that adapts to your body and keeps you comfortable for the day ahead. £667, hermanmiller.co.uk



4/ TOUCH OF PERFECTION

Wacom Cintiq 22/24 HD Touch

A designer's dream come true, Wacom's tablet is the perfect tool for putting digital pen to paper, with a pressure-sensitive pen and a multi-touch screen. £1,500 (22-inch), wacom.com



5/ DARK MATTERS

Anglepoise Original 1227

The perfect late-night desk partner, this lamp is a seriously stylish piece, and offers adjustable lighting when your work takes you into the small hours. £225, anglepoise.com



6/ NEON LIGHTS

Seletti fluorescent tube light

Add an 80s-inspired atmosphere to your space; these tubes are bright and distinctive. Alternatively, you can reenact the 'I'm your father' scene from *Star Wars*. £35, heals.co.uk



7/ ONE TO RULER THEM ALL

Tool The Mathematician

If we were back at school, we could do some damage with this kit. Instead of throwing them, why not give these works of practical art to a draughtsman instead? £80, tomdixon.net



8/ J'ADORE IT

Cote&Ciel x CdG iPad Mini Sleeve

With a name that wouldn't look out of place on an overpriced Parisian menu, this iPad Mini sleeve gives your Apple gadget excellent protection. £39, selfridges.com



9/ WOODEN WONDER

Made Compound desk

Straightforward in its ethos, but with an intriguing design, Made's Compound desk is constructed from plywood with an ash veneer. £299, made.com



10/ THE BIG SCREEN APPLE

Apple Thunderbolt Display

Improve the focal point of your space; this 27-inch mega-pixel display is ideal for multiple documents or pixel-heavy media, and does super-fast file transfers. £899, apple.com

MAN CAVE



1/ KEEPING IT COOL

Marshall fridge

Fridges are boring. Well, they all are except this rock infused Marshall version, which mimics the British company's classic amplifier, yet keeps your Christmas drink selection ice cold. £399, uk.marshallfridge.com



2/ CONSOLE

Sony PS4 White

Hardly needing an introduction, Sony's next-gen console is a beast with an ever-growing library of top games. And now it comes in Arctic White, if that floats your boat. £349.99, playstation.com



3/ GOOGLE DONGLE

Chromecast

Use Google's nifty little HDMI dongle to turn any regular TV into a smart one, allowing you to cast content like Netflix and BT Sport from your Android or iOS device straight to your big screen. £30, google.co.uk



4/ TV ON DEMAND

Netflix Premium subscription

Give the gift of on-demand movies and TV shows this Christmas. Netflix Platinum gives you access to the full catalogue, in beautiful Ultra HD where available. From £8.99, netflix.com



5/ DOCK ROCK

Henge iPad Dock

Made from Zinc alloy and weighing-in at a hefty 1.2 kilos, this is the finest way to proudly show off your spanking new iPad Air 2. Swappable inserts mean it'll work with almost all cases. \$74 (£46.78), hengedocks.com



6/ LIGHT 'EM UP

Elgato Aeva

Light switches are dead... a tap of an app is the new way to bathe your room in radiant light. Elgato's smart LED bulb beams out a myriad of colours and boasts a bunch of relaxing presets. £39.95, elgato.com



7/ DELUXE 'PHONES

Stax SRS-2170 headphones

Stax's 'Earspeakers' may look like something stolen from a Lancaster Bomber pilot, but electrostatic drivers make them incredibly high-performance. £800, stax.co.jp



8/ GAMING

Astro A40 gaming headset

Xbox One/PS4 gaming cans that'll not only pump Dolby 7.1 surround sound into your ears, but put you in full control of the audio with a dedicated amp and mixer dial. £200, astrogaming.co.uk



9/ BLOW THE BUDGET

Natuzzi Re-Vive Recliner

The Re-Vive is built with naturally articulating joints, helping to aid any back and neck pain while you obliterate cocky 14-year-olds on *Call of Duty*. £2,950, natuzziirevive.com

FIVE XMAS GAMES

CHILL IN YOUR COCOON WITH OUR TOP FIVE GAMES



GRAND THEFT AUTO 5

The glorious open-world masterpiece is now on next-gen consoles – see Los Santos as it's meant to be seen. £47, rockstargames.com



ASSASSIN'S CREED UNITY

Sneak'n'stab action and some nifty four-player co-op comes to revolutionary Paris. £45, ubisoft.com



FAR CRY 4

The latest in the series merges visceral gameplay with a vast open world and the odd wacky dream trip. £45, ubisoft.com



CALL OF DUTY: ADVANCED WARFARE

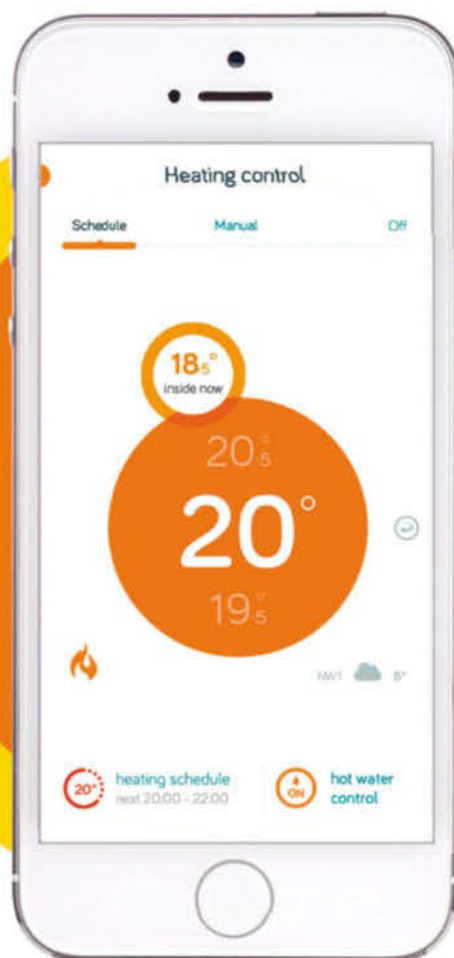
Need a gift for a teen relative? The latest COD brings jet-packs and free-running to the table. £45, activation.com



BEYOND EARTH

Beyond Earth is a spiritual successor to Sid Meier's *Alpha Centauri* and a superb strategy time-killer. £27, civilization.com

The only way to control your heating and hot water



With
Geolocation
feature

Award-winning Hive puts you in control of your heating and hot water from your mobile, tablet and laptop. Use the app and online dashboard to set schedules, track your temperature history or boost your hot water. Professionally installed for you, the Hive kit works no matter who supplies your energy.

Designed for British homes, it's the beginning of your connected home.

Demo the Hive app on iOS and Android or get the whole story at hivehome.com/sync or 0800 975 8099

BIKES



1/ MAKE A STAND

Park Tools PCS9 workstand

A workstand makes regular cycle maintenance much easier, so you'll have to find another excuse for your feeble workshop skills.
£100, madison.co.uk



2/ AIR TIME

LifeLine Professional Track Pump

Get fast, easy and accurate inflation for your tyres – and suffer less punctures as a result – with this handy track pump.
£30, wiggle.co.uk



3/ LIGHT FANTASTIC

Knog Blinder Road light set

Perfect for lighting dark, country lanes, Knog's Blinder kit gives a powerful 200 lumens of light at the front and 70 at the rear, plus multiple flashing modes.
£95, euro.knog.com.au



4/ SAVE YOUR BACON

Bern Macon helmet

The Macon is a good-looking, versatile lid that comes with a noggin-safe EPS liner and an all-season inner that's perfect for all helmet-essential activities.
£45, bernunlimited.com



5/ IT'S IN THE BAG

Brooks England Land's End

Brooks – guru of British cycle chic – has come up with this stylish pannier bag, which is fully protected against the elements and has a 23-litre capacity.
£100, brooksengland.com



6/ LAST ACTION HERO

GoPro HERO4 Black

The mighty GoPro returns for its fourth outing, complete with astonishing 4K video at 30fps and remote wi-fi camera control, for impressive results.
£370, gopro.com



7/ ON THE BLEEDIN' EDGE

Garmin Edge 1000

The Edge 1000 'bikeputer' offers in-ride challenges against other cyclists, as well as GPS navigation and a large, weather-resistant three-inch touchscreen.
£400, sites.garmin.com



8/ WHEELS OF A FORTUNE

Campagnolo Shamal Ultra M G3

Get faster acceleration, better handling and snazzier looks with this wheel upgrade. A carbon fibre, ceramic-bearing hub equals smooth-rolling stiffness.
£597, campagnolo.com



9/ LOVELY CHUBBILY

Genesis Caribou

Looks the bomb, is bomb-proof and explodes into action on any surface (including snow!), making any gent that dares to straddle it appear twice as manly.
£1,500, genesishbikes.co.uk



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

Canyon Endurace CF

Top-spec lightweight carbon bike that doesn't break the bank, or your back. Canyon's comfy racer ticks all our boxes, and looks incredible too.
£1,400-£2,300, canyon.com





FASHION FABRIC

APPAREL TO KEEP YOU WARM AND DESIRABLE



RAPHA WINTER JERSEY
Rapha's wind-proof merino Winter Jersey oozes style and technical features. £160, rapha.cc



DHB FLASHLIGHT HIGHLINE JACKET
Wiggle's super-high-vis waterproof jacket will get you noticed, for the right reasons. £85, wiggle.co.uk



ASHMEI SOFTSHELL JACKET
The softshell/merino mix in Ashmei's jacket will keep you toasty on cold, wet nights. £210, ashmei.com



CAFÉ DU CYCLISTE HEIDI WINTER JACKET
Sweat-wicking jersey meets windproof front panel, blocking out the iciest winds. £163, cafeducycliste.com



VULPINE HARRINGTON JACKET
Stylish whether on or off the bike, it's also waterproof and highly-breathable. £195, vulpine.cc

HOME



1/ SEE THE LIGHT

Philips Hue Iris

Light your room to suit your mood. There are 16 million colour variations, preset and user-defined 'scenes' and, of course, control via a mobile device – so much easier than a lightswitch. Ahem. £125, philips.co.uk



2/ GOT IT ON LOCK

Goji Smart Lock

Goji takes picture of visitors and sends them to your smartphone, keeps a log of all lock activity, and you can even set specific dates and times and send the access details to visitors. \$278, (£175.51), gojiaccess.com



3/ HOT STUFF

Tado Smart Thermostat

Tado cuts your heating costs while you're out of the house, tracking you via your mobile and only firing things up again as you get nearer home. £199, or £4.99 per month rental, tado.com



4/ EVOLUTION

Honeywell Evohome Pack

Set time and temp controls for either your whole abode or up to 12 smart-valve fitted rooms, and control the weather, indoors at least, like you're a god. Base Pack £187, honeywelluk.com



5/ FULL CONTROL

Logitech Harmony Ultimate Hub

Once you have the Harmony Ultimate Hub, install the app to turn your smartphone into a remote control with 50 channel icons. Plus, it's compatible with 225,000 devices. £80, logitech.com



6/ MULTIPLE MONITORS

Withings range

More monitoring devices than you'll know what to do with. Doodahs for sleep monitoring, sleep-wake lighting, blood pressure and more let you know what terrible shape you're in. £100-£250, withings.co.uk



7/ FLOWER POWER

Koubachi Outdoor Plant Sensor

The Koubachi monitors soil moisture, sunlight, temperature and more, sending alerts to your phone when your plants desperately need attention. €99 (£77.68), koubachi.com



8/ TEMP TECH

Weather@Home Weather Station

Plant the sensor outside and this will show indoor and outdoor temp, humidity, moon phases and more. Bluetooth beams the info to your phone, too. £60, uk.oregonscientific.com



9/ ALL-SEEING EYE

BT Smart Home Cam 100

Worried your cleaner is only squirting the sheets with Febreeze? This clever cam boasts a 93-degree field of vision and can see in the dark. Its iOS and Android apps are free. £100, shop.bt.com



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET

Samsung W9600 washing machine

This analyses the weight of your loads so it can work out the right energy and water levels, while a Smart Check monitoring system keeps a look out for problems. £1,699, samsung.com/uk

SPEED DEMONS

FIVE CONNECTIVITY ESSENTIALS



NETGEAR NIGHTHAWK R7500
Impressively stable, stealth-looking router. Speed is certainly not in short supply. £229, netgear.co.uk



SYNOLOGY DS115J
Services all your media-storing, personal-cloud and surveillance-cam-serving needs. £78, synology.com



WD MY PASSPORT ULTRA METAL 2TB
Portable storage with 256-bit hardware encryption. Just plug it into your router via USB 3. £100, wdc.com



ASUS RP-AC52
AC Wi-Fi range extender boosts wireless reach to where your router can't penetrate. Up to 433Mbps is promised. £60, asus.com/uk



ZYXEL PLA5405
Powerline ethernet is the way to go if you've got a big house or thick lead walls. This one offers 1.2Gbps speeds. £TBC, zyxel.com/uk

The tablet that can replace your laptop.

The new Surface Pro 3 is a tablet and laptop in one. It's thin and light and runs your favourite desktop programs, like Adobe Photoshop, Office and Windows. Work from anywhere with built-in adjustable Kickstand, Surface Pen, USB port, 12-inch screen, and an optional click-in keyboard. The Surface Pro 3. The tablet that can replace your laptop.

Surface Pro 3



Available from

Currys  PC World

Type Cover 3, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Office sold separately. Adobe and Photoshop are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

KITCHEN

10



1/ WINE NOT? Le Creuset GS-600

An Activ-ball corkscrew makes opening wine bottles effortless. There's also an aerating nozzle, a pump, and stoppers for resealing in the unlikely event anything's left. £99, lecreuset.co.uk



2/ JUICE THE TRICK Dualit Dual- Max juicer

A wide opening makes juicing easy, so no julienning carrots before work. "Dual sieving" of your fruit means good extraction, and there's a bit of steely style, too. £99.99, dualit.com



3/ JOE, NOT SLOW AEG Series 7 coffee maker

Austerly designed, this Teutonic teapot turns out 12 cups of filter coffee – using filtered aqua – per boil. It's got 24-hour autostart too, for a nice early rise on Boxing day. £90, aeg.co.uk



4/ GRIEF-FREE TOAST Graef two- slice toaster

With a long slot, the Graef is able to take two slices of small bread or one wide slice of boule, or what have you. Toasting is, naturally, impeccably uniform. £90, graef.co.uk



5/ GET THE WI-FI ON Smarter iKettle

A premium kettle with multiple temperature settings, as well as the ability to boil it from anywhere in the house over wi-fi – all the connected chap needs. £99.99, wifikettle.com



6/ WILL IT BLEND? KitchenAid hand blender

All your blending, frothing, ice-crushing and whisking needs catered for. Multiple bell blades attach to deep-pot-friendly blending arms. £120, kitchenaid.co.uk



TASTY TREATS

YULETIDE SNACKS
AND PARTY FODDER



NEAL'S YARD DAIRY

Get an unspeakably creamy, crumbly and yummy cheese box whenever you want. £55, nealsyarddairyshop.co.uk



PACT COFFEE

Freshly roasted and ground artisan beans, weekly or fortnightly on subscription. £6.95 per bag, pactcoffee.com



BRINDISA IBERICO BELLOTA

Make your own Pinxtos with this whole leg of Spanish hog goodness. £380, brindisa.com



PAUL A YOUNG MARMITE CHOCOLATE

You'll love it. Or not. Get this and a range of "small batch" foods. £6.50, cravedlondon.com



PERRIER-JOUËT BLASON ROSÉ

A blend of pinot noir, chardonnay and pinot meunier grapes in a pre-chilled case. £73, harveynichols.com



7/ VACUUMING MADE FUN Sousvide Supreme

Perfectly cook anything protein-y, and firmer veg (fennel and the like) with this magical vacuum sealer and water bath combo. Heston loves his, and you will too. £435, sousvidesupreme.com



8/ YES, IT'LL BLEND Sage The Boss blender

...And speaking of the bulbous-headed one, his latest gig is designing this 2L blender, able to quickly render anything into nutrient-packed mulch. £500, sageappliances.co.uk



9/ MASTER CHEF Kenwood Cooking Chef

On this bionic stand mixer an induction plate cooks casseroles, risottos and any other food that requires lots of stirring, even as it mixes - up to three litres at a time. £1,000, kenwood.co.uk



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET Krups EA9010

The ultimate kitchen gadget remains the bean-to-cup coffee maker. This one boasts a big tank, touchscreen control and thermoblock temperature control. £1,300, krups.co.uk

CHRISTMAS

GADGET GIFT GUIDE

20 + 14

CINEMA



9

8

4

6



1/ CATCH-UP TV

Sky Now TV streaming box

So insanely cheap it should be in everyone's stocking, Sky's streamer is brilliant for catch-up telly and its extensive collection of pay-as-you-go blockbusters. £10, nowtv.com



2/ TOP SERVICE

Prime and Mubi subscriptions

Amazon Prime lets you watch films online and get free DVD and Blu-ray delivery. Mubi has a daily dose of obscurities and lost classics. *Amazon Prime* £79, amazon.co.uk; *Mubi* £23, mubi.com



3/ CRUNCH TIME

Gourmet popcorn maker

Popcorn may now be known as a trendy snack, but it remains as essential to the cinema as people jumping away from big explosions in slow-mo. £27.95, gourmetgadgetry.com



4/ BLU-RAY BEAUTY

Panasonic DMP-BDT700

A reference disc-spinner to wow movie fans, Panasonic's Blu-ray flagship isn't just for Xmas. Its 4K upscaling and sumptuous build whisper, "Take me..." £499, panasonic.co.uk



5/ SOUNDS GOOD

LG NB3540 sound bar

With minimalist design but prodigious output, this bluetooth soundbar is great if you lack room for full-on 5.1. A paired wireless subwoofer offers plenty of wub-wub. £199, lg.com/uk



6/ PHENOMENAL PHONES

Sony MDR-HW700DS

No room for a soundbar? Treat yourself to these amazing 9.1-channel cans. Ideal for HDMI sources, they're like a cinema just for you that attaches to your head. £450, sony.co.uk

BOXSET BRILLIANCE

TOP MOVIES FOR CHILLING
OUT BY THE FIRE



SPACED DEFINITIVE COLLECTORS' EDITION

The slackers' classic,
with very young Simon
Pegg and friends.
£10, DVD



WITHNAIL AND I
One of the best British
films, remastered with
a slew of extras. We
intend to have it, even
if it must be burglary!
£40, Blu-ray



**GAME OF THRONES
SERIES 1-3**
More playing and incest
than you can shake a
gore-splattered sword
at. £42, Blu-ray



**BREAKING BAD
HEISENBERG TIN**
Man gets cancer,
becomes crystal meth
kingpin, ruins lives of
himself and all around
him. £86, Blu-ray



**THE SOPRANOS
COMPLETE
COLLECTION**
The shattering Mafia
masterpiece gets the
deluxe treatment.
£100, Blu-ray



7/ MINI MARVEL Q Acoustics 2000i

Proof that multi-channel
speaker packages needn't
be monstrous, this small
sub/sat 5.1 set looks super
slick. Timbre matching
turns movies into a near-
religious experience.
£650, qacoustics.co.uk



8/ FUTURE SOUNDS Onkyo TX-NR838

Dolby Atmos is the
future of home cinema
surround sound, and
this AV receiver has
it. For under a grand!
Astonishingly powerful
cinema-grade grandeur.
£999, onkyo.co.uk



9/ HD PROJECTOR Optoma HD50 DLP projector

Small, light and lovely,
this full HD DLP makes
movies supersized. It's
not 4K, but so what? The
1080p image clarity is
stunning, and as good as
models costing twice as
much. £999, optoma.co.uk



10/ BLOW THE BUDGET Samsung UE55H6410

Samsung's 6 series is the
sweet spot of its range. It
offers stupendous images
on a beautiful screen,
while great motion
handling makes it an
absolute movie must.
£1,500, samsung.co.uk

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**E TOUCH
MORE**



Aspire Switch 10 4 MODES

A spectacular view. Smooth versatility. Dynamic productivity.

Feel the magic with Intel inside®.

Intel® Atom™ Processor Z3745.

Buy now at

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*Also available in 11" model.

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Acer recommends Windows.

FREEDOM





N E X T
M O N T H

THE

O N S A L E
2 3 - 1 2 - 1 4

HOTTEST NEW RELEASES 2015

OF

52 WAYS NEW TECH WILL ROCK YOUR YEAR
THE NEW WAVE OF GADGETS, TECH AND PEOPLE SHAPING YOUR FUTURE

■
**SMARTPHONE
SHOWDOWN**

—
WE PUT THE YEAR'S
HOTTEST NEW
HANDSETS ON TEST

■
**STREAMING
BIGGER**

—
MUSIC, MEDIA AND
MOVIE STREAMERS –
WE SELECT THE BEST

■
**NEXUS 9 VS
IPAD MINI 3**

—
TINY TABLET WARS.
AS GOOGLE AND APPLE
GO HEAD-TO-HEAD

■
**KILLER SCREENS
ROUND-UP**

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Now you can experience Apple CarPlay with Pioneer. Respond to incoming calls, dictate messages, and access your maps without hassle. Easily browse and play music from your iTunes library and use CarPlay compatible apps.
- ✓ **ENHANCED**
Pioneer enhances your Apple CarPlay experience. Siri® uses the included external microphone and car speakers for a powerfully integrated experience. Fast and responsive control with the advanced touch panel LCD screen.

CARPLAY COMPATIBLE PIONEER PRODUCTS



Parrot MINIDRONES

THE AWARD-WINNING
CONNECTED ROBOTS

ROLLING SPIDER

JUMPING SUMO

"Two brand new
fun-packed
smartphone-controlled
bots and they're pretty
darn awesome"
Stuff

"Unlike anything else on
the planet. Get ready
to get hooked."
T3

www.parrot.com



FreeFlight 3
is available for free



SMARTPHONE
CONTROL



Available now from
Apple Store

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TECH ^{T3}life

MANUAL

YOUR MONTHLY EXISTENCE ENHANCER

TECH LIFE
GADGET OF THE
MONTH



This month...

HOW TO

DO MOVEMBER LIKE A PRO,
AND GET MORE FROM YOUR
MICROWAVE P88

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SHOOT CELEBS LIKE A PAP
AND/OR STALKER P89

TECH DAD

THE MACHINES ARE
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PULSE

STAY COOL WITH THIS
WINTER TECH P93

HOME

A MAN'S HOME IS HIS
GADGET-LADEN CASTLE P97

DRIVE

A LOW-CARBON LAMBO.
WEIRD, RIGHT? P102

STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Straight lines are so noughties. Full figure curves are back in town

If you're looking for a new TV, the Samsung UE55HU8500 ticks all the boxes – it supports 4K programming and sports a trendy curve for enhanced viewing angles. But wait, there's more! Samsung is offering the pleasingly kinky wireless

H7500 soundbar, while Off The Wall's latest curved TV stands are a great finishing touch, coming with a suspended inner cab for all your bits. *UE55HU8500 £2,500 and HW-H7500 £700, samsung.com; curved stand £500, off-the-wall.tv*



FUTURE TECH THAT'S BRINGING THE CURVES

1/ PLASTIC LOGIC PAPERTAB

AN INTERACTIVE, FLEXIBLE, HIGH-RES TEN-INCH DISPLAY, THE IDEA BEING THAT YOU HAVE ONE PAPERTAB PER DOCUMENT, LIKE A PIECE OF PAPER.

2/ I.A.M PULS

WILL.I.AM'S NEW WRISTBAND WILL PACK ALL YOUR USUAL TRACKING GUBBINS, BUT ALSO HAS A SIM CARD FOR PHONE-LESS CALLS AND 3G.

3/ SONY CURVED IMAGE SENSOR

SONY HAS BEEN WORKING ON A REVOLUTIONARY NEW CURVED IMAGING SENSOR, WHICH COULD APPEAR AS EARLY AS CES 2015.

HOW TO

HACK YOUR LIFE WITH TECH

1

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MICROWAVE

It's not just for nuking ropey ready meals...



1/ Don't be square Microwave energy will focus on the corners of your container, leaving food in the middle undercooked, or at least under-warmed. So avoid square containers, unless you absolutely blast your food and promptly burn yourself. We always said the square was past its prime.

2/ No clean socks? No problem Soak your dirties in a bowl of soapy water for a bit, then whack the whole lot into the microwave. After about ten minutes they'll be good (well, relatively speaking) for another big day. You'll probably want to dry them first though, so best start preheating the oven.

3/ Pasteurise potting soil You can use microwaves to mork diseases in your soil, and prevent future problems with your plants. Simply fill a paper bag with soil and cook it in the microwave – just make sure the soil is moist when it goes in.

2

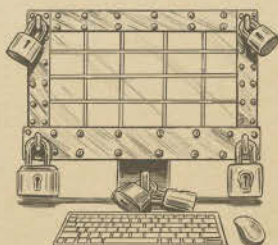
BRING IN SECURITY

Squirrel away private files to make the personal more personal

1/ Enable File Vault Doing this in System Preferences means you'll need a password to access your Mac's hard drive.

2/ Encrypt your files For an extra layer of security, encrypt each file before hiding it. This can be done easily with Disk Utility. Choose File>New>Blank Disk Image.

3/ Hide and seek To hide a file from search and history, use Skedaddle (£1.99), an app that creates a password-protected secret spot on your desktop. Just drag and drop files to it as you please.



3

DO MOVEMBER IN STYLE

Three top-lip must-haves from the American Mustache Institute



If you begin each Movember with the proud intention of looking like Errol Flynn, only to slide into December ending up more like that geezer who sits near the cash machine, you really need these styles...

1/ The Fu Manchu A moustache that begins on the upper lip and whose whiskers are grown very long to extend down each side of the mouth and down to the jaw. The areas just past the corners of the mouth are shaven, thus differentiating this style from the 'horseshoe'.

2/ The Handlebar A handlebar moustache can be worn large or small (petit handlebar, sir?). It's characterised by its bushiness, and must be worn long enough to curl the ends upwards, which is usually achieved with styling wax.

3/ The Pencil A thin, narrow, closely clipped moustache that outlines the upper lip. Pencil-style moustaches can be trimmed in different manners. Also sometimes called a 'mouthbrow'.

TOOL OF THE MONTH



BOSCH IDH182 WC-102 DRILL & WIRELESS CHARGER

Wireless charging is ridiculously handy on a phone, but bringing it to power tools is a revelation. The 18V energy-efficient battery on this drill, which features CoolPack tech to disperse heat, juices up quickly when you simply drop it on the pad. There's an all-in-one impact driver, too, with a quarter-inch quick-change hex. £205, boschtools.com

4

TECHQUATION

Become master of your living room



Nest

Set the ambient temperature of your room via an automotive thermostat, such as Nest. From £250, nest.com

+



Apptui

Turn your phone into a controller for virtually every video and music app out there. Free, apptui.com

+



Lifx Wi-Fi Bulb

Mood lighting controlled by your smartphone makes the dimmer switch fade away. From £62, lifx.co

+



Control central

One remote to rule them all – your smartphone, to be precise. Now where exactly has it gone...?

OBSESSION
BECOME THE KING OF...

#41 CELEB SPOTTING

Stealth shooting apparatus that will bring out your inner paparazzo and keep you under the radar while hot-heeling *X Factor* contestants. Just don't get arrested...

WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



1/ Nikon D610

At only 850g, this camera won't drag you down as you chase down the latest *Big Brother* winner. £1,330, johnlewis.com

2/ Sony DEV50 Recording Binoculars

Capture unmissable scoops on full HD video using the DEV50's 20.4-megapixel camera and built-in stereo mic. £1,749, sony.co.uk

3/ Savvy Bluetooth Monopod

Mount up your phone and set the self-timer to snap

yourself and your latest celeb spot. Or use your arm... £11, amazon.co.uk

4/ AF-S VR NIKKOR 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G

For when you just can't get close enough, this lens can capture both close-ups and distance shots in sharp detail. £554, nikon.co.uk

5/ Victorinox Night Vision Rubber

This Swiss Army watch has LED digits and hands, plus a torch – perfect for after-dark operations. £455, amazon.co.uk



STALK THE STARS

GET MAXIMUM STAR-SPOTTING POINTS WITH ADVICE FROM FORMER SHOW-BIZ JOURNALIST CARL STROUD

1/ Increase your chances The easiest shots are captured at events – parties, restaurant openings, play opening nights. PR companies will be keen to accommodate anyone with a camera. Much harder are the 'out and about' shots, which can be considered intrusive, so tread carefully.

2/ Stalk efficiently Keep your ear to the ground for product releases and film premieres. Otherwise, stand outside well-known celebrity hangouts, outside nightclubs and expensive restaurants, and by the stage door of theatres. It's a bit of a waiting game, but can be surprisingly rewarding.

3/ See it in print Got a great shot? Contact the picture desks of newspapers and magazines to see if they'll buy it. Photo agencies might take your photo, but of course you'll share any profits.

4/ Have some respect Use common sense. Don't use long lenses to look into, or attempt to enter, private property. There are very strict rules around what you can/can't take photos of and where you can/can't go. Be aware of them and don't cross the line, or you'll find yourself in serious trouble.



CELEB HAUNTS TO HANG OUT AT

CHILTERN FIREHOUSE

GUARANTEED A SMATTERING OF EVERYTHING, FROM TONY BLAIR TO CARA DELEVIGNE TO DAVID BECKHAM. OR AT THE VERY LEAST LINDSAY LOHAN STUMBLING OUT OF THE BACK DOOR AT 3AM.

ANNABEL'S

AN 'OLD MONEY' FAVOURITE, HERE YOU'LL LIKELY FIND SIR PHILIP GREEN, *DOWNTON ABBEY* ACTORS AND FOREIGN CELEBRITIES.

TONTERIA

A MIXED BAG OF ROYALS, RICH KIDS AND WANNABE CELEB SPOTTERS. MAKE FRIENDS IN THE CAREFULLY MANAGED PRESS GANG OUTSIDE.



TECH DAD
IT'S FOR THE KIDS.
HONEST

BISH, BASH ROBO-BOSH!

Battling droids bring abrupt end to Christmas peace and goodwill

If your sprogs thought the table-top combat of Tomy's Battroborg was a hoot, wait till they get a load of what the battling bots can do now. The **Battroborg Warriors** pack incorporates a 30cm battle arena, two battery-powered robots and a pair of wireless nunchaku-style motion controllers. Wave the controller about and your little pocket-sized titan emulates your movements, swishing and hacking at your opponent's bot until it falls over like a drunk uncle on Christmas day. Game over. £60, uk.battroborg.com

THE TECH

Warriors, come out to play-ee!

1/ Packs a punch

Battroborg Warriors comes in two configurations: Samurai vs Ninja and Viking vs Knight. So that's pretty cool. Single Samurai fighting figures are also available.

2/ Present arms!

Each robot carries its own style of weapon/s and comes pre-armed with an assortment of special battle manoeuvres. It's like *Street Fighter* in three dimensions, basically.

3/ Hands solo

As ever with toy bots, Battroborgs can be a little, shall we say, erratic in their behaviour. So practice your chops first in solo 'autodrone' mode. The warriors could also be let loose on any nearby Lego palaces...



Chartwell
FIND OUT MORE

TECH DAD SELECTS

A brace of alternative automatons



Wowwee RoboMe

Interactive droid with customisable personality. £175, wowwee.com



BeeWi Kick Bee

App-controlled mini bot does footy, hockey and Sumo. £30, bee-wi.com

CONSOLE FOR KIDS

Dual motion-sensing systems placate tech-loving gamer children



You've got your PS4. Now junior needs the toddler-friendly equivalent, LeapTV, which connects via HDMI to your telly and by wi-fi to download games – it can also use cartridges (how retro!). An articulating, motion-sensing controller-cum-pointer and Kinect-style camera detect hand and body movements then provide control. A small number of learning titles are preinstalled. The likes of Disney's *Jake and the Never Land Pirates* and Pixar's *Pals* pretty much guarantee relative tranquility. For a bit. £110, leapfrog.com

JUICE BOOSTERS

There are two ways to consume five carrots, half a head of broccoli, a finger of ginger and a beetroot in five minutes. One of them is to juice. The other is gonna be unpleasant...



Philips Avance HR1871 (centrifugal)

With 800 watts in the tank, this once howitzered beetroot onto our ceiling, because we forgot to put the rammer/lid on in time. It juices very effectively but it's noisy and too big. Being dishwasher-able and cheap wins it bonus points, though. £149, philips.co.uk **3/5**



Braun Multiquick 7 (centrifugal)

With a smaller footprint than the Philips, and being less noisy, this is narrowly the stronger budget option. The feed pipe is wide enough for whole apples and the juice is really good for the price. Yield isn't amazing, though, and it drips like a bugger. £130, braun.co.uk **4/5**



Omega VSJ 843 RS (masticating)

This is quiet and makes both the best and the most juice on test. However, unlike the other models here, there's a narrow feed pipe on the Omega, which means you need to chop up veg before juicing – less than ideal for frenzied mornings. £379, ukjuicers.co.uk **3/5**



Kuvings B6000 (masticating)

Almost a match for the Omega on quality – it's quiet and extracts juice aplenty – but crucially Kuvings' machine has a chute big enough to drop broccoli heads, apples and huge carrots down. That combination makes it worth the considerable cost. £349, kuvings.com **5/5**



FRUITY TALK

When one is juicing, it's important to know one's juicing lingo

CENTRIFUGAL JUICERS: GOOD

THIS, THE MORE POPULAR TYPE OF JUICER, ESSENTIALLY GRATES YOUR FRUIT AND VEG AT HIGH SPEED, THEN BLASTS THE LIQUID PART THROUGH A MESH. THEY'RE CHEAP, EFFECTIVE – PARTICULARLY WITH FRUIT AND SOLID VEGGIES SUCH AS CARROTS – BUT NOISY.

MASTICATING JUICERS: BETTER!

HOWEVER, IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT EXTRACTING FLUIDS FROM PRODUCE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND A MASTICATING OR 'SLOW' JUICER. THESE USE A HEAVY ROTATING 'AUGER' TO CRUSH FRUIT AND VEG AGAINST A FILTER SCREEN. AS A RESULT IT'S FAR QUIETER THAN A CENTRIFUGAL MACHINE, AND WORKS WITH ANYTHING FROM BANANAS TO CARROTS TO WHEATGRASS. IT'S ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE LOWER HEAT INVOLVED MEANS THAT MORE NUTRIENTS REMAIN IN THE JUICE, THOUGH WE'VE NOT SEEN CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF THAT.

...AND THAT'S NOT ALL

BY USING FILTER SCREENS WITH DIFFERENT-SIZED HOLES, SLOW JUICERS CAN CREATE MORE FULL-BODIED JUICES, SMOOTHIES, AND ALSO NUT BUTTERS AND SORBETS, HENCE THE HIGHER PRICE.

WANT ORANGE WITH THAT?

The devices here *can* do it, but for best results you'll want a citrus juicer.



Sage Citrus Press

Steely citrus reamer with "patented juicing fins". £160, sageappliances.co.uk



Gefu Presco

A more basic approach: simply screw and pour. £10, gefu.com

WINTER WARMERS

Coat-shaped body heat for après-ski, footy finish or post-pub trek

1/ Nobis Cartel

Packed to the gunnels with Canadian white duck down, the Cartel comes with a choice of polyester crosshatch or poly/wool blend shells, both of which are wind- and waterproof. The shells are breathable too. \$725 (£453), nobis.ca

2/ Canada Goose Snow Mantra Parka

The warmest coat on earth, allegedly – and with 675 fill white goose down, a full-length fleece-lined windguard and coyote fur ruff, we don't doubt it. There's a myriad of pockets too, including secure snow pockets and a couple of mesh kidney pouches featuring air-activated hand warmers. \$1,195 (£740), canada-goose.com

3/ Perfect Moment Imok Jacket

The star of the show here is the outer shell, made of Toray Primeflex material, which has impressive elasticity and follows body movements (without losing shape). It rebuffs wind and rain too, while Primeloft on the inside provides plenty of insulation. \$500 (£315), perfectmoment.com

4/ Fjällräven Arktis Parka

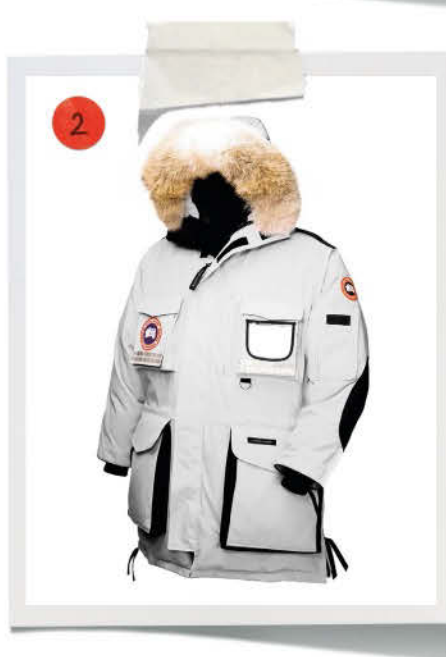
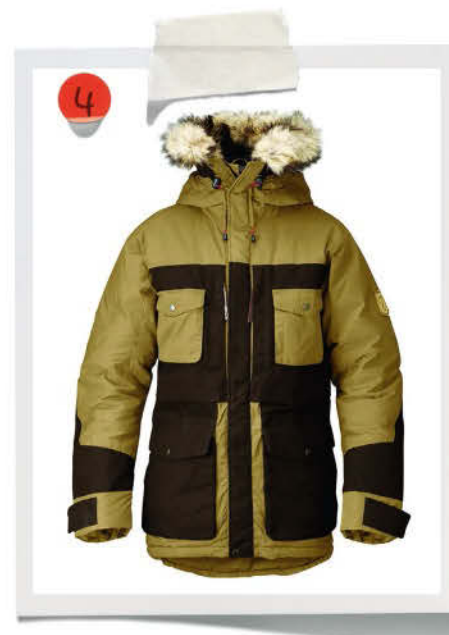
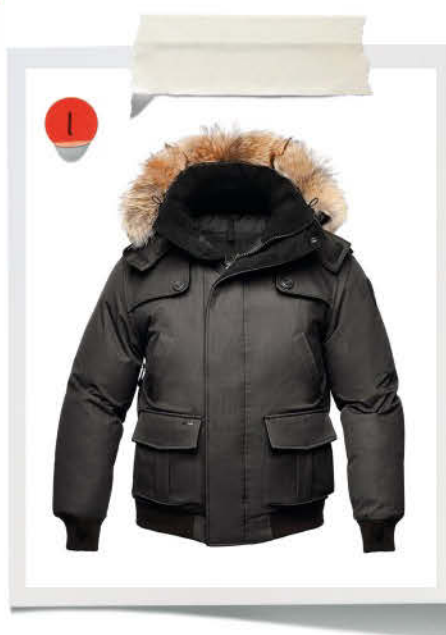
Making full use of Fjällräven's super-durable G-1000 outer shell, the Arktis is reinforced all over with two types of G-1000 for ultimate snow and rain protection, and packed with 500 fill power goose down too. £645, fjallraven.co.uk

5/ Jötnar Fjörm Down Jacket

With 850 fill of water-repellent Down-Tek goose and duck down, Neutron synthetic insulation panels around wet-out areas like the cuffs and collar, and a mouldable storm hood with room for helmets if necessary, the Fjörm is the ultimate jacket for dedicated outdoorsmen. £295, jottnar.com

6/ Woolrich Tecnowool Arctic Parka

Woolrich started making parkas for Alaskan pipeline workers over 40 years ago, so your trust is well-placed here. The technical wool coat itself is completely waterproof, while a coyote-fur lined hood and Thermore-padded hand warmer pockets pack plenty of heat. £719, uk.woolrich.eu



ESSENTIAL INSULATION
 KEEP TISSUE-FREEZE AT BAY

ARC'TERYX RHO AR BALACLAVA

GET YOUR BOAT ALL COVERED UP WITH NICE WARM POLARTEC. LOVELY. £22, ARCTERYX.COM

SPYDER OVERWEB GLOVE

PART WOOLLY JUMPER, PART SOFTSHELL, ALL TOASTY WARM. £40, SPYDER.COM

IT'S ALL FOR SNOW

Hitting the slopes this winter? Increase your chances of returning in one piece with this trusty tech

Whereas regular lenses only work in certain light conditions, the Prizm lens tech in Oakley's **Airbrakes** covers four times the spectrum. These goggles pick out contours and bumps better than ever, so you can pick a clean line down the mountain and avoid the more dangerous areas. If you do still get yourself into trouble, Black Diamond's **Halo 28 Jetforce Pack** could save your life. Not only does it pack dedicated pockets for avalanche survival tools, it's the first avalanche airbag to use jet-fan inflation to expand the life-preserving, puncture-resistant Cordura material. £170, oakley.com; £689, facewest.co.uk

PULSE

TECH PUT THROUGH ITS PACES



BLACK DIAMOND PACKS SOME TECH

PIEPS HAS WORKED DIRECTLY WITH BLACK DIAMOND TO GET ITS JETFORCE TECH INTO THE COMPANY'S AVALANCHE SAFETY BAGS. WHEREAS MOST SIMILAR AIRBAGS USE A COMPRESSED-AIR CYLINDER TO INFLATE – MAKING THEM SINGLE-USE ONLY – JETFORCE TAKES AIR FROM THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN NEEDED, AND REPACKS EASILY.

YET IT'S JUST AS EXPLOSIVE AS YOUR REGULAR AIRBAG. THE 200-LITRE CHAMBER FULLY INFLATES IN JUST 3.5 SECONDS, AND CONTINUES WITH BURSTS OF AIR AFTERWARDS TO KEEP YOUR AIRBAG INFLATED IF IT GETS TORN.

AFTER THREE MINUTES THE BAG DEFLATES, GIVING YOU A LARGE AIR POCKET AND ROOM FOR EQUIPMENT.



STAY SAFE IN THE WHITE STUFF

Tech up on the slopes with this ice-cool kit, which might just save your (or someone else's) life if conditions take a turn for the worse.



1/ Mammut Pulse Barryvox Beacon
Combines analogue and digital signals with three antennas, for massive range. £350, mammut.com



2/ Ortovox Lite PFA Probe
The probe snaps together quickly, letting you check for buried avalanche victims. £69, ortovox.com



3/ Voile T6 Tech Shovel
A sturdy 14-inch snow saw, adept at digging avalanche pits or uncovering your stranded mate. £40, voile.com

SLOPE STYLE

Never mind the nursery slopes. Get props on the black runs with this season's sickest skis, boards and accessories

THE SKIS

01/



02/



03/



WHERE TO GO: PARADISKI

SET IN THE FRENCH ALPS, THIS CONGLOMERATION OF THREE RESORTS OFFERS 425KM OF PISTES. WITH OVER 150 EASY RUNS, 79 INTERMEDIATE AND 22 "HMM, MAYBE NEXT TIME" BLACK RUNS, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE PARADISKI CITY, WHERE THE GRASS IS GREEN (BUT COVERED IN SNOW) AND THE GIRLS ARE PRETTY.

ALSO ON OFFER, SHOULD THE SKIING PALL: EVERYTHING FROM BOB SLEIGHING TO ICE CLIMBING. BUY A SKI À LA CARTE CARD AND GET INSTANT SLOPE ACCESS PLUS SKIING FOR €10 ON FOUR DAYS OF THE MONTH.

THE SKIS

01/ Powder: MTNApproach System

Made for traversing off-piste, these fat fibreglass and nylon skis keep you firmly on top of powder snow, and fold down so you can carry them when the going gets rocky. Yes, that's right, folding skis. Don't worry though, the aluminium hinges lock tight. £500, mtnapproach.com

02/ Cross-country: Atomic Sport Skintec

The Skintec part – should you be interested – is a coating on the skis that performs like wax, giving you a longer glide phase after your kick without the pain of actually waxing your skis. The skin is replaceable too, so you

don't have to worry about taking things easy in order to protect it. £260, atomic.com

03/ All-round: Völkl Shiro

A super-versatile ski for 2015, the Shiro is happy to carve its way down the slopes, pivot through the trees or head off-piste thanks to its wide profile. Their multi-layer Sensorwood poplar construction is light without being flimsy, so you can really throw them into turns. £425, volkl.com

THE GEAR

04/ Ride Helix snowboard

Ride's fancy-schmancy new design says "To hell with the old shapes!"

and delivers a unique asymmetric medium-flex board for all-mountain freestyle riding. The heel edge has a super-deep side-cut for more control and aggressive carving. £440, ridesnowboards.com

05/ Burton Focus backpack

This 30-litre pack is ideal for anyone who loves to keep their camera and laptop close at hand when they're on the slopes. As well as bespoke pockets for tech, the Focus has straps for your board and tripod too, and the whole lot is made of tough-as-nails Cordura. £145, burton.com

06/ KneeBinding Core

Cruciate knee damage is by far the most common injury in skiing today.

THE GEAR



04/

06/



07/



09/



CLOTHING

Wrap up warm, now



1/ Celtek Lira gloves

Primaloft insides keep your mitts toasty warm, while the goat leather outer is naturally water-repellent. £60, celtek.com



2/ Atomic Mentor LF Helmet
Super-light at 430g. Atomic's XRD Impact tech means it can absorb 90% of the energy from impacts. £120, atomic.com



3/ Tecnica Mach1 130
Designed to match the shape of your lower leg, and the Custom Adaptive Fit liner sculpts to your foot. £360, tecnica.it



06/

08/



Thankfully, KneeBinding's unique bindings release laterally when enough pressure is applied, displacing the energy before it causes real damage. £250, kneebinding.com

07/ Drift Ghost-S

In a world dominated by the GoPro, the new Ghost-S is a worthy alternative for anyone looking for an action cam with 60fps, full HD chops. It'll mount anywhere, supports 720p at a whopping 120fps, and can do timelapse and burst photography too. £330, driftnnovation.com

08/ Suunto Core Brushed Steel

The Core successfully marries the worlds of style and tech, which is surprisingly rare in watches these

days. Not only does it look classy, it's packed full of alpine tech, including a barometer, altimeter, thermometer and compass, as well as your usual time and alarm gubbins. You know, the kind of stuff those *normal* watches do. £375, suunto.com

09/ Oakley Airwave 1.5

Goggles with an edge: onboard sensors track distance covered, speed, air time and various other analytics, then beam information on how freakin' awesome you are onto a heads-up display right in front of you. You can even track what your on-slope friends are up to via AR, change your soundtrack and take calls. No word on the lasers we were hoping for, though. £520, oakley.com

SCALEXTRIC®



The Ultimate Slot Car Race Control System **ARC ONE**

C1329 - Just £99.99

Don't miss out on this must have gadget

ORDER NOW

Call: **01843 233 519**

please quote reference **ARCONE**
(Telephone order lines are open
8am-5pm Monday to Friday)



Scalextric App Race Control (ARC) is a revolutionary slot car system that allows users to wirelessly create and manage races with a handheld SMART device, such as a smartphone or tablet.

Download the ARC app, then connect your device via Bluetooth to the new ARC powerbase, unlocking unique features and control of your races allowing users to merge the excitement of real time, on-track racing, with the thrill of on-screen gameplay.

Personalise your race by selecting features such as race type, driver names and number of laps. Customise and save your race settings and car setup, before you head out on the track to test your skills and challenge your opponent.

Key features include:

- Can be added to any existing Scalextric set.
- **Race modes:** Quick Race, Practice, Grand Prix, Endurance, Tournament, Drag Race, Arcade and Pursuit.
- **In-race gameplay:** Race start, jump start, start reaction times, lap counting, top speed, proximity sound, pit-lane pitstop, fuel usage, tyre wear.
- **Pre-race configuration:** Set selection, car selection, track layout selector, driver images, personalise garage.
- **Social media:** Post your race results on Twitter or Facebook, challenge friends, share results, view post-race statistics table and graph.

Visit scalextric.com/arcone for more information.

@Scalextric /Scalextric

BIG WOOFER, TWO TWEETERS

Clearly the two boxes at the front are speakers. The bulldog wearing sunglasses posing in the background? That is too...

Truly, wireless speakers now come in styles to fit *any* kind of space. Clockwise from front right, we have the **Denon Heos 7**, a bass-laden part of a new multi-room audio range that's spoiling for a fight with Sonos. Then there's the **Monitor Audio S200**, a melted rectangle providing stunning stereo from a tiny footprint. And behind them is the **Jarre AeroBull**. And yes, it's a speaker shaped like (but actually rather larger than) a French bulldog. A 60W subwoofer means plenty of bark from your bytes. £499, denon.co.uk, £200, monitoraudio.co.uk, €1,299, jarre.com



OR HOW ABOUT THESE?

Three more effortlessly high-quality wireless audio options in cube, suppository and rectangle shapes.



1/ Crystal Acoustics Cuby 7 Multiple drivers equals great sound throughout the room. £299, crystalaudiovideo.com



2/ Arcam Solo This slick soundbar also serves up bluetooth musical niceness. £800, arcam.co.uk



3/ Geneva Model S Wireless DAB Does what it says on tin, with bluetooth and DAB radio. £329, genevalab.com



WETROOM WONDERS

The tech you need for bathroom-based joy: music, lights, bath... And a toothbrush with a hole in it

1/ GROHE F-Digital Deluxe This bathroom of the gods includes lighting, sound, steam and shower, all controlled from an iPod Touch (no, it's not included). It's like being in a top-flight spa, but without staff dressed like Bond villain henchmen, tossing on about wellness. You can have it set up how you like, but the 'small' configuration here has a brace of coloured and dimmable LED light modules, speakers, the Touch docking station and a shower with 20-inch head. *Average price £7,680, grohe.com/uk*

2/ ProofVision Bathroom music system Fire up this wall-implanted system's DAB or connect your music source via bluetooth and let its 30W stereo pair do the rest. The frontage is aluminium and glass, and there's also a waterproof remote. *£TBC, proofvision.co.uk*

3/ LightFreq "The lovechild of Philips Hue and Jambox", this is a bluetooth and wi-fi speaker that's also an LED lightbulb. Unlike most such things it's suitable for bathroom use, so you can listen to music while it lights the room, or even flashes, strobes and changes colour in time to the tunes – not sure we'd fancy that in the khazi, but each to his own. *From \$70 pre-order, lightfreq.com, out Q1 2015*

4/ Philips BT9280 UK chaps spend more time facial grooming than anyone else in Europe. Who knew? This is waterproof and keeps your beard uniform, with length adjustable in 0.2mm increments. It's also not bad on your head,

if you shave your 'slightly thinning' hair – aka the 21st-century comb-over. Oh, and it's got a laser spirit level in it, for super-straight lines in your visage topiary. Should your 'downstairs garden' be similarly in need of 'manscaping', there's the **Braun CruZer 6 Body**. It can trim and shave, wet or dry. Mind your scrotum, now! *£75, philips.co.uk, £30, braun.com/uk*

5/ Amron Rinser Brush And now, a toothbrush that is also a water fountain. Yup. You pour your tap into the big hole in the handle and it plumes up out of the small hole, so you can rinse your mouth of Colgate suds. The heads are replaceable, reducing waste. If you favour more drastic rinsing, the **Waterpik WP450** is a cordless water-jet for cleaning between the teeth and below the gum line. *\$35, amronexperimental.com, £42, waterpik.co.uk*

6/ If the Rinser just seems too simple, there's the Philips Sonicare DiamondClean, which comes in black for boys and pink for girls, but makes your teeth white. There's also the **Braun Oral-B PRO 6000**, which is a sort of bluetooth fitness trainer for your mouth. NB: neither can be used as a drinking fountain. *£120, philips.co.uk, £120, oralb.co.uk*

7/ Victoria + Albert Cabrits Not so much a bath as a work of art, this is made of volcanic limestone mixed with resin, for great insulation and stain resistance. It holds 137 litres of water/Champagne, with curves that support your body. *£3,600, vandabaths.com*





OH! THE TOILETTE!

Forget modern fragrances and common scents. You want the kind of manly, expensive smells your dad would have worn, had he been a wealthy businessman from mainland Europe.



1/ **Gucci by Gucci** Bergamot, cypress, tobacco and resin. £54 for 90ml, gucci.com



2/ **Chanel Pour Monsieur** Citrus, aromatic spices and oak moss. £47.50 for 50ml, chanel.com



3/ **Terre d'Hermès** Burnt citrus, pepper, flint and vetiver. Ooh yeah. £76 for 100ml, uk.hermes.com

DRIVE
TECH TO
TAKE YOU
PLACES



HATCHBACK TO THE FUTURE

The Eolab, Renault's prototype low-carbon laboratory on wheels, is a near-300mpg masterpiece that previews the hot hatchback as we'll know it in the next decade. Turns out efficiency and fun needn't be arch enemies after all...

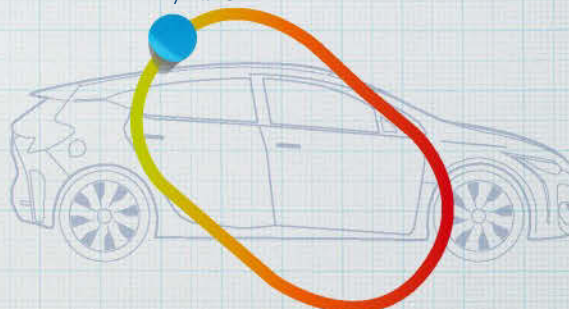


TOP SPEED **125MPH**
0-62MPH **9 SECONDS**
ENGINE **999CC**,
THREE-CYLINDER PETROL
POWER **78BHP PETROL ENGINE**,
40KW ELECTRIC MOTOR
GEARBOX **CLUTCHLESS**,
THREE-SPEED
BATTERY **6.7KWH**
FUEL CONSUMPTION **282MPG**
CARBON EMISSIONS **22G/KM**
WEIGHT **955KG**

ROUTE MASTER

We were only trusted behind the wheel in a controlled environment, so headed to the CERAM test track in Paris. It wasn't enough for a definitive verdict, but the benefits of Eolab's low weight are so all-encompassing, even a rough-around-the-edges prototype designed primarily for fuel efficiency made for a surprising amount of four-wheeled fun.

1/ Paris



The **Renault Eolab** has drop-kicked our definition of the hot hatchback into the next decade. Because the hotness here isn't raw performance, it's the white heat of technology employed with a single purpose: to minimise fuel consumption. The result is a scarcely conceivable combo of 282mpg and 22g/km of CO2. For now it's a prototype. But Renault's grand plan is to put most of the Eolab's technical smarts into production, and by 2020.

Renault's big idea is an über-efficient and practical car that doesn't compromise on safety, performance and driving fun. It's also barely more expensive than a conventional hatchback. Feature highlights centre on a few key areas. First, Renault has ripped out weight from every corner. Next, the aero is slicker than a well-oiled ocelot. Finally, Renault has come up with a plug-in petrol-electric power train with an aversion to setting fire to fuel.


So, how's it all done? The super-light, sub-1,000kg Eolab must be carbon fibre, right? Nope. Affordability is critical for this project. So, while this prototype cost millions to develop, its hybrid construction in advanced steels, aluminium, magnesium and thermoplastics promises to be cost-effective in mass production. But the weight loss isn't just about materials. The men in white coats

YOU CAN REALLY FEEL THE LIGHTNESS, AND THAT MAKES IT SURPRISINGLY FUN

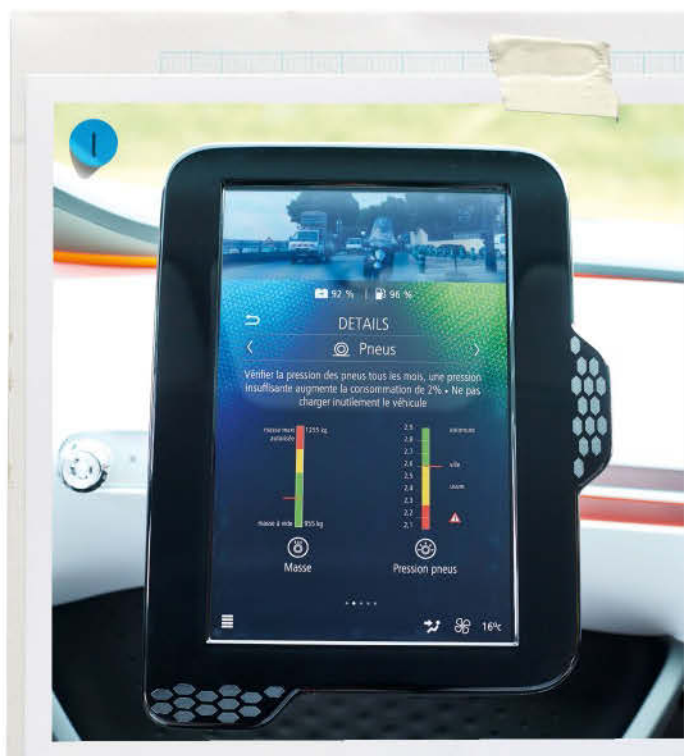
have gone fully forensic with the Eolab, using packaging and design tweaks to shave grams from items like the steering rack and braking system. They've even shortened the exhaust.

Just as brainy are aerodynamics that include active rear flaps, an active front spoiler and even active ride height. Oh, and the wing mirrors are gone, replaced by tiny bullet-shaped cameras outside and LCDs inside.

Next up is power from a petrol-electric combo that hooks up a one-litre combustion engine with a 6.7kWh lithium pack and 40kW electric motor. Tying it all together is an 11-inch dash-mounted tablet that constantly tracks the vehicle's efficiency.

The Eolab isn't going to tear it up among the latest generation of hot hatchbacks. Not with the likes of Mercedes, BMW and even VW now selling 300hp-plus überhatches. But you can really feel the lightness, and that makes it surprisingly fun. It also makes you wonder if the power war between the German brands might just be missing the point. 

FROM £15,000, RENAULT.CO.UK, OUTTBC



THE TECH INSIDE

1/ Tee-total tutor

The central 'tablet' display constantly ticks you off for frittering away fuel. But the Eolab is so light on its feet, just going with the flow is fuel-sipping fun.

2/ Active aero

The 125mph top speed isn't exactly in F1 DRS territory, but the active flaps, spoilers and ride height contribute to a drag co-efficient of 0.235 – 30% lower than a Clio.

3/ Mirror images

Both the wing mirrors and the rear-view mirror are replaced by cameras and LCD screens. The driver's instruments get the LCD treatment, too.



THREE TO TEST DRIVE

Kerb your enthusiasm



1/ Jaguar XE

Jag's answer to the BMW 3 Series. Hewn from space-age aluminium, the XE has an immediate edge on the steel-bodied opposition.

£26,995, JAGUAR.CO.UK



2/ Fiat Panda Cross

It's not cheap, but the new four-wheel drive rehash of the plucky little Panda is a proper off-roader with a digital hill-descent system.

£15,945, FIAT.CO.UK



3/ LR Discovery Sport

Take the smash-hit Range Rover Evoque. Give it seven seats. Add a dash of 'rugged', but don't ditch the 'sporty'. Result? The odds-on next 'it' car.

£32,395, LANDROVER.CO.UK



MAKEOVER COMPLETE

Mercedes' utterly gorgeous AMG GT is the ultimate in control, from its stereo to its exhaust

Remember when Mercedes made staid saloons? No, neither can we. And with the **AMG GT**, Merc's makeover is surely complete. With an all-aluminium body and a 462hp twin-turbo V8 (and that's just the base model), this thing eats Porsche 911s for breakfast and treats Audi R8's as tapas. It's not short on smarts either, what with the COMAND multimedia system, configurable drive modes and active suspension. Hell, you can even control the exhaust flaps. *From £100,000, mercedes-benz.co.uk*

AMG GT: WHAT'S ON OFFER?

1/ COMAND and conquer

The GT gets the latest version of Merc's COMAND Online multimedia system, complete with a tablet-style 8.4-inch screen. It's not actually touch-enabled, but COMAND has become something of a BMW iDrive killer with its slick graphics and web-connected features.

2/ Big on buttons

Like all good modern sports cars, the AMG GT changes personality at the flick of a switch. Actually, make that lots of flicks and a baffling array of buttons. Everything from the stability control to the suspension settings, exhaust flaps and steering response are yours to control.

3/ Active aero

With 193mph on the menu, it's probably wise to keep an eye on airflow. Luckily, the AMG GT doesn't just have the usual active aero in the form of a pop-up rear spoiler. Adaptive ducts in the nose also balance the car while feeding cool air to that awesome V8 engine.



{CONCEPT}

LAMBORGHINI ASTERION

Meet the Earth-loving, low-carbon Lambo

1/ Hybrid hottie Like its rivals, Lamborghini's gone petrol-electric, but the elegant Asterion is more warp-drive GT than raging bull.

2/ Gentleman's relish It may be low-key for a Lambo, but with a 602bhp V10 and 296bhp of electric power, it's a 200mph road rocket.

3/ Ranging bull The electric subsystem packs a lithium-ion battery and gives this unlikely Lambo a pure-electric range of 31 miles at up to 78mph. But the really bonkers bit is the hatchback-humbling 69mpg.



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T3

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www.meroncourt.co.uk

M-TECH

RATED

THE LATEST TECH FROM THE T3 TEST LAB

Air we go again

APPLE'S ALL-CONQUERING TABLET GETS A REBOOT, BUT CAN CUPERTINO IMPROVE ON PERFECTION?



{RATINGS}



MUST BUY



VERY GOOD



DECENT



BELOW AVERAGE



OH DEAR

{ALSO REVIEWED THIS MONTH}

Apple iPad mini 3 p112
 Amazon Kindle Voyage p113
 Epson EH-TW6600 3D Projector p113
 Speaker stand round-up p114
 Robot vacuum supertest p117
 Atomic Floyd SuperDarts Titanium p127
 Amazon Fire TV p127

It's never easy to beat a world beater – nobody remembers who comes on as a substitute for Messi when he's scored yet another hat trick, nor can we recall who took over from Davina McCall on *Streetmate*.

But that's just what Apple's tried to do with the ultra-svelte, hyper-fast iPad Air – and it's only gone and done it with the cunningly named, and recently released, iPad Air 2.

The obvious boxes have been well and truly ticked: the new iPad is even ultra-svelte and the innards are even hyper-faster, but that's not all that makes this new tablet a winner. Simply picking it up and feeling its reduced weight and dimensions makes you appreciate its brilliant design. And to make those reductions without compromising on battery life proves that Apple knows what it's doing when cranking out a high-quality slate.

And after last year's disappointingly iPhone-a-like A7 chip, Apple's back to form with the A8X engine at the heart of the iPad Air 2. It's 40% nippier than last year's grunt centre, and combined with the new Metal graphics engine in iOS 8, this tablet's gaming capabilities are really rather exciting.

There's another key area that Apple's improved on, and it's one we didn't predict. The Retina display usually only gets updated every two or three years, but Apple wants to keep up with the competition (namely the drippingly gorgeous display on the Samsung Galaxy Tab S), so has tinkered hard with its own screen.

The result is zero gap design, which means that not only do your eyeballs actually get closer to the on-screen action, offering brighter and more vivid colours, but the reflections are lowered too, so you won't spend half the morning commute angrily staring at your own face rather than *Game of Thrones*. The reflections aren't removed completely, but there's definitely a reduction from last year's model, and the picture quality upgrade is noticeable too.

The iPad Air 2 is still the ultimate tablet for media on the go, with excellent sound reproduction. Even

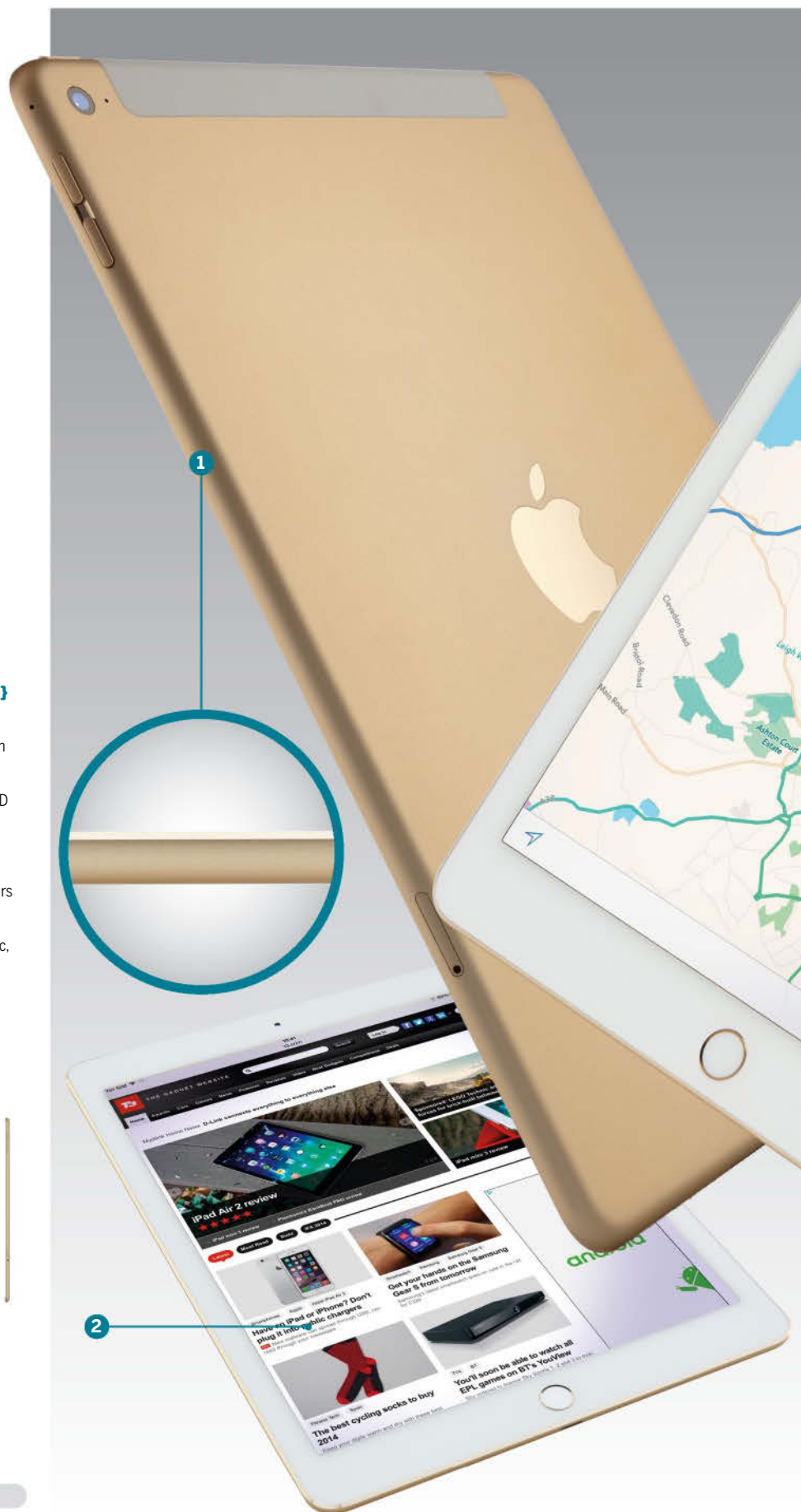
{SPECIFICATION}

OS iOS 8.1
SCREEN SIZE 9.7-inch
RESOLUTION
1,536x2,048 pixels
SCREEN TYPE IPS LCD
CPU Apple A8X chip
RAM 2GB
STORAGE
16GB/64GB/128GB
BATTERY LIFE Ten hours
CAMERA 8MP
CONNECTIVITY
Wi-fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac,
Bluetooth 4.0, 4G

{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 240mm
WIDTH 169.5mm
DEPTH 6.1mm
WEIGHT 437g



**{DETAILS}****1**

SLIMMER OF THE YEAR
The super-slim dimensions are awesome – the Air 2 is so light it will bring about a 'has it been stolen from my bag?' moment roughly 25 times a day

2

SUPER GRUNT-NUGGET
The A8X chip, combined with iOS 8's Metal, will offer console-quality games with very little lag from your taps

3

WORLDS WITHOUT WIRES
Apple's also supercharged the wi-fi on board the Air 2, with speeds of up to 866Mbps. Can your router handle it?

the external speaker, despite being smaller, produces meaty, if slightly tinny, audio. The display might not present movies perfectly due to its 4:3 screen ratio (most videos come in 16:9), but the wider space makes web browsing and working on the go a far more pleasant experience.

The other big change here is TouchID, which enables your digits to dictate the security on your tablet. It's a good upgrade, but one we expected to see on last year's model – Apple still hasn't explained why the technology that was launched months before with the iPhone 5S didn't come to 2013's flagship tablet. But it's here now, and does precisely what you'd expect it to.

However, it's not as handy as it is on a mobile. The great thing about TouchID teaming up with the iPhone is that it's a super-simple way of opening your phone securely without needing to peck out a passcode. Most of us unlock the handset using the home button anyway, so you're already halfway there.

But with the tablet, remembering to hit the round key is harder – you're less likely to have a finger anywhere near it, instead preferring to use the protruding power button. There's obviously the security aspect – light-fingered thieves won't be able to get in and see your movie/spreadsheet collection – and apps themselves will be able to make use of the TouchID secure feature too, because Apple's finally opened it up to developers.

Apple Pay, the big reason to have a fingerprint scanner built in, is still missing in action, as the Cook's Crew still haven't brokered the right deals to get it working on our shores. When it does eventually arrive, however, you can bet that you'll be able to link all your credit and debit cards to your Apple account, and then pay for goods online in an instant using just a finger scan.

Thankfully Apple hasn't imbued the new iPad Air with NFC, so there will be no instances of the person in front of you in the coffee line lollygagging around trying to pay for a latte with a whopping ten-inch tablet.

Apple's oddly proud of the camera upgrades it's brought to the iPad Air 2 – it now packs the same 8MP resolution as the iPhone 6. However, it's not got the same snapping power, with smaller pixels, no clever autofocus and the flash completely MIA. Of course, that's no bad thing if you're one of those constantly stuck behind the person taking pictures on a tablet at a football match.

There are still a few issues here: the price is a touch high, starting at £399 (not bad, but last year's iPad Air is still on sale for less), and while maintaining the ten-hour battery life is a feat of engineering in this slimmer slate, we'd have loved to have seen more. →



The Air 2 is thinner than its predecessor, but maintains its ten-hour battery life

→ To be completely blunt, the main reason the iPad Air 2 is such a great tablet is because it's an iPad. That's not to say Apple has a divine hold on what a good device like this should be, but the combination of excellent apps and a very user-friendly interface in iOS 8 means that it still has the edge over its rivals.

SIMPLY PICKING IT UP MAKES YOU APPRECIATE ITS BRILLIANT DESIGN

Critics will quickly flash out all the usual arguments, such as, 'Oh, but it can't fully run all my PC software and it just can't multi-task properly', but the simple fact is that it doesn't need to. The iPad Air is a sling-in-your-bag, grab-for-entertainment device that just begs to be played with.

Whether you're using it for gaming, reading, proof-reading a document or just want to sit and sigh wistfully at your recent holiday snaps, the iPad is adept at nearly every task, and if you fancy a little treat (or have been exceptionally good this year), it's well worth a place on your Christmas list.

FROM £399, APPLE.COM/UK, OUT NOW

LOVE Brilliant screen and super-slim dimensions. Powerful engine. Tonnes of great apps
HATE Previous Air is cheaper. Disappointing camera. Not the greatest battery life
T3 SAYS While not worth the upgrade if you bought 2013's model, the iPad Air 2 is a brilliant tablet that's a pleasure to use

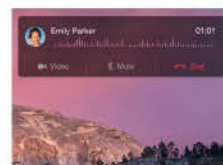


{KILLER FEATURES}

USE THE IPAD AIR TO DO, WELL, ALMOST ANYTHING



1 SLOW THINGS DOWN
 Slo-mo arrives on the tablet for the first time, but it's not as smooth as the 240fps on the iPhone 6. Sadly, capture is limited to just 120fps on the Air 2, and its low-light performance is nowhere near as impressive either.



2 FIND YOUR PHONE
 No more scrabbling around if your phone's ringing and you can't find it. The new Handoff feature means you can answer calls or reply to text messages using just your iPad, then use the tablet to locate the phone.



3 GO LARGE
 Pairing your iPad Air 2 with a device like the Clamcase Pro turns it into something resembling a MacBook Air, plus it sports a hinge to let you prop it up to watch movies, or simply use it as a (larger) tablet once more.

{THE RIVALS}

WHICH TABLET WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?



IPAD AIR 2



SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S



HTC NEXUS 9

| PRICE | FROM £399 | £399 | £319 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| URL | APPLE.COM/UK | SAMSUNG.COM/UK | PLAY.GOOGLE.COM |
| BUILD | A super-sleek and ultra-light tablet that packs a ton of premium materials | While still leaning on plastic for the rear, the Tab S is one of the most solid Sammy tablets yet | A metallic rim and HTC's packaging make this a solid, if slightly standard, offering |
| KEY FEATURES | iOS 8 is a real step forward and works brilliantly on a larger screen | The octa-core power and great screen combine to make a mean media machine | The bringer of the Lollipop: this is the first tablet to run the all-new Android 5.0 |
| BATTERY LIFE | Ten hours is average for a tablet – we'd have liked to see more, though, despite the thinness | Slightly longer-lasting than the iPad, the Tab S can chug through the 'net for longer | Shorter life than the iPad Air 2, but does finally come with a battery saver mode |
| APPS | Apple packs the greatest number of tablet-only apps – much better than the Android | Android's Play Store is getting better, and Samsung augments it well with its own offerings | Lollipop promises to improve Android apps to make them finally pop on a tablet screen |
| SCREEN | The screen is more colourful than ever, but not to Samsung's Super AMOLED level | The 10.5-inch Super AMOLED screen is crisper and larger than the iPad's. The best around | The same resolution as the iPad Air 2 in a smaller form makes it sharper, although less colourful |
| CAMERA | Improved again with an 8MP sensor, but lacks iPhone power | Another 8MP effort, but comes with a flash for brighter snaps | 8MP, decent autofocus and lens blur, but creates average snaps |
| PROCESSOR | The A8X chip at the heart is one of the most powerful around, and improves many apps | The octa-core Exynos 5420 provides incredible grunt to push through nearly any task | The Nvidia Tegra K1 is only dual-core, but it's certainly mighty – if not in the iPad's league |

{THE FINAL WORD}

NICK ODANTZIS, REVIEWS EDITOR



This is Apple's attempt to stay at the sharp end of a slowing tablet market. It can't compete at the super-budget level, so needs to keep the premium end attractive. While the Air 2 isn't the silver bullet, it's a very good effort, and shows Apple still knows how to deliver just enough of an upgrade to tempt all those iPad 2 users who are starting to hanker for something new.

OLYMPUS

NEW DOUBLE ZOOM KIT



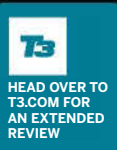
OM-D

E-M10

The OM-D E-M10 interchangeable lens camera will transform your photography. The latest addition to the award-winning OM-D series now comes in a boxed double zoom kit including the E-M10 super-slim lightweight camera, M.Zuiko Digital ED 14-42mm 1:3.5-5.6 EZ Pancake and M.Zuiko Digital ED 40-150mm 1:4.0-5.6 R lenses. SRP £799.99

Ask your local dealer or visit us online at olympus.co.uk/e-m10

ZUIKO
LENS SYSTEMS



{DETAILS}

1

TOUCH-Y SUBJECT

Use TouchID to secure your innermost thoughts and get ready to pay online using only your finger next year

2

GO FOR GOLD

The mini 3 is available in gold. Austin Powers' third enemy wouldn't be able to contain himself

3

INNER SPACE

Muchos movies? Too many tunes? You'll need the extra 128GB space only the mini 3 can offer

Haven't we been here before?

THE NEW IPAD MINI HAS FINALLY APPEARED. GOOD NEWS, BUT IT SEEMS AWFULLY FAMILIAR...



Apple's iPad mini will always sit in the (now slightly smaller) shadow of the iPad Air.

That was OK last year as, like the meaner sidekick to the clever lead, it packed more than enough punch. But things have changed. This year, Apple must have thought it was onto a good thing by pretty much changing nothing bar peeling off the 'mini with Retina' label and slapping a 'mini 3' sticker on top, before placing it back on the shelves.

After all, the mini 3 has the same processor, same screen, same shell, same battery and even the same smell (allegedly) as its predecessor. In fact, all that's changed is its ability to scan your digits. And it comes in gold.

But does that make it a bad tablet? No, it doesn't. This is still an iPad we're talking about – it matters not what appears on the spec sheet, but what you can actually do with it. And with access to Apple's bewilderingly brilliant sweet shop of apps, the mini 3 has the ability to perform admirably no matter what task you're attempting, and we're yet to find a game it struggles to play.

But here's the kicker: Apple's selling last year's model (now officially called the iPad mini 2, which will save a few mistaken purchases this Christmas) at a much cheaper price, so unless you're desperate to secure your shiny precious with only your fingerprint (plus use Apple Pay when it lands in the UK next year) you're better off with the almost-identical-but-cheaper mini 2.

FROM £319, [APPLE.COM/UK](http://apple.com/uk), OUT NOW

LOVE Compact size. Secure TouchID. Nice design

HATE Pretty much unchanged from iPad mini 2. Old CPU. The price is high

T3 SAYS: A brilliant iPad, last year. With very few upgrades and last year's model still available, it's hard to recommend the new mini



{MOTO 360} POINTS OF INTEREST

{SPECIFICATIONS}

OS iOS 8.1
SCREEN 7.9-inch LCD
CPU A7
CONNECTIVITY
4G, Bluetooth 4.0, wi-fi
802.11 a/b/g/n
BATTERY LIFE Ten hours
CAMERA 5MP
STORAGE 16/64/128GB

{SIZE/WEIGHT}



DIMENSIONS
200x134.7x7.5mm/331g

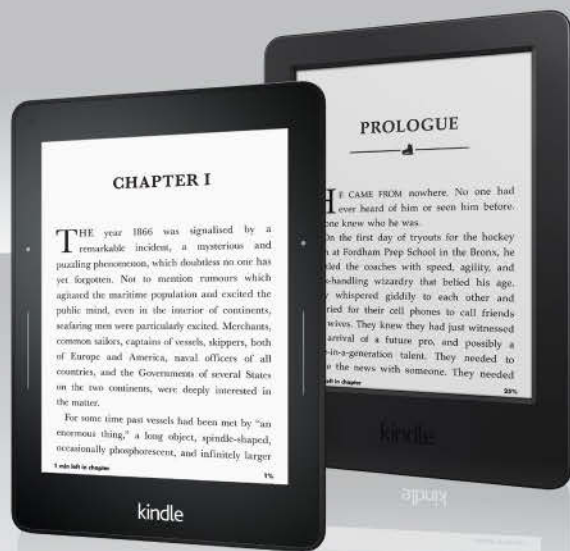
{FOCUS}

Spending your hard-earned cash has never been so easy

OK, so it's not here just yet, but in a few months (once it hits the UK) you'll be able to pay for goods using the functionally monickered Apple Pay, simply by tapping the icon and scanning your fingerprint.

The site will instantly know who you are (and securely too – no details on your fingerprint are sent) complete with shipping and payment info, so you won't need to tap away with myriad forgettable passwords.

You won't be able to tap an iPad when trying to pay for a McDonald's in the real world, as there's no NFC here, but come on, you don't want to be that person anyway.



AMAZON KINDLE VOYAGE

FROM £169, AMAZON.CO.UK

You have to really love e-readers to enjoy Amazon's new Kindle Voyage, but if you do, then boy oh boy you're in for a treat.

We'll get one issue out of the way early doors: this thing is available from £169, which is a heck of a lot of money to shell out on an e-reader when it's possible to buy three for around the same price, should you wish. But unless your dog wants to start pawing its way through *War and Peace*, this is the perfect device for the dedicated bibliophile who thinks paperbacks have had their day in the sun.

That said, from the 300ppi screen to the flush display, the Kindle Voyage oozes a premium quality that not many rivals can match – plus it has access to Amazon's massive Kindle library, which enables you to get your hands on books in under a minute when you're out and about.

It's much smaller, lighter and just a better device to carry than its predecessors, plus the bezel is enabled with touch technology to let you hold the device and flick back and forth through tomes with just one hand.

Yes it's expensive, but it's also a premium e-reader that's perfect for the commuter who loves to get lost in a fantasy world before being brought back to Earth with a bump when trudging through the office doors. **T3**

LOVE Brilliant screen. Strong backlight. Beautiful design

HATE Pricey. Still pushes Amazon store. Buttons a bit unresponsive

T3 SAYS A premium product that could stay the death of the e-reader. It's the Aston Martin of e-readers, with a hefty price tag to match



{SPECIFICATIONS}

DISPLAY 6-inch, 300ppi, with Carta e-paper technology and adaptive front light

BATTERY LIFE Six weeks (based on half an hour of reading per day with wireless off and the light setting at 10)

STORAGE 4GB

SIZE/WEIGHT 162x115x76mm/181g



EPSON EH-TW6600 3D PROJECTOR

£1,399, EPSON.CO.UK

If you want a home cinema set-up that involves as little fuss as possible, the EH-TW6600 is an excellent choice.

Although you can set it up for permanent use, it's actually more the kind of kit you get out occasionally to watch movies or play games on the big screen.

Installation is incredibly simple thanks to the inclusion of a WiHD box. This connects to up to five HDMI devices, enabling you to switch between inputs. However, its best feature is that it can wirelessly transmit footage to the projector itself. This eliminates the need to trail long HDMI cables from the projector to your video sources.

As long as there's a clear line of sight the projector and the WiHD box pair quickly, and the image quality is excellent, especially when used with a proper projector screen (we tested it with an Optoma DP-1095MWL). Colours were bright and vibrant, especially when watching animations. There was evidence of image noise in some footage, but this was caused by some rather over-zealous sharpening effects that are applied by default. With a bit of tweaking we got very good results. The 3D effects were also impressive, though it's a shame you only get one pair of 3D glasses thrown in. **T3**

LOVE Ease of set up. WiHD box is a great idea.

GOOD Image quality. Full HD viewing

HATE Factory settings need tweaking. Can get noisy with certain settings applied. Only one pair of glasses

WE SAY A top choice for your first home cinema set-up – it's easy to install and great value too



{SPECIFICATIONS}

SYSTEM 3LCD Technology, RGB liquid crystal shutter
RESOLUTION Full HD 1080p, 1920x1080

ASPECT RATIO 16:9
3D Yes

LAMP 250W, 3,500 hour
CONTRAST RATIO 70,000:1

PROJECTION SIZE 30-300 inches

Take a stand, any stand...

GREAT HOME CINEMA SOUND NEEDN'T REQUIRE PRECISION SET-UPS. KEEP IT SIMPLE WITH THESE SMART, STUNNING TV SPEAKER STANDS



GETTING GREAT CINEMA-LIKE SOUND AT HOME IS obviously the next step after picking up a huge, glorious new TV, but not everyone has the right kind of set-up for a 7.1 proper surround system (or the time to get it up and running properly). These speaker stands sit under your TV, giving you a space-saving one-box way to improve your TV's audio. They all have built-in subwoofers and surround-sound effects, for a proper movie experience in any room.

01 THE CINEMA EXPERIENCE

01 THE CINEMA EXPERIENCE

CANTON DM 50

£399, CANTON.DE/EN

The advantage of the Canton is very simple: it offers rich, clear, wide sound with lots of cinema-style rumbling bass. There are few audio options (mostly a bit of simple bass and treble adjustment) and no HDMI, so its volume is controlled separately to your TV's using its own supplied remote.

It's a bit on the small side – our 40-inch TV's

stand only just fitted on it – but its surround effect was the best here for audio separation. Additionally, the audio is well balanced despite the glorious bass, and it looks smart. It may be imperfect, but it's still a decent choice.

T3 SAYS Really lovely sound, but lacking in killer features



02 THE ALL-ROUNDER

02 THE ALL-ROUNDER

PANASONIC SC-HTE180

£250, PANASONIC.COM

This huge system connects to your TV over HDMI so it can be controlled from your TV's remote, and offers an HDMI input so you don't lose a precious slot.

Its audio reproduction is pretty good, but not spectacular – it lacks the warmth of the Canton, but is bassier than the Sony – and its stereo separation is fairly weak. Tweaking its audio

options is a confusing process, but far from impossible, and we encountered some mild input-detection issues, as we did with the Sony.

Ultimately, it has a good mix of features but struggles to truly stand out from the crowd.

T3 SAYS A good feature/price balance, but not amazing



03 THE SMARTEST SYSTEM

SONY TV BASE SPEAKER HT-XT1

£280, SONY.CO.UK

There's so much clever stuff going on here. This sound base connects to your TV over HDMI, enabling its volume to be controlled from your TV remote, but also offers three HDMI inputs, so you actually gain ports. It also offers great sound modes, including some brilliant options just for boosting voices if they're getting lost in full-on movie soundtracks.

It's full of other features too, and looks great. It also sounds beautifully clear, and the surround effect is strong, although there's not as much bass as we'd like. We also had (easily fixed) issues with its confused audio input detection.

T3 SAYS Lots of great features and nice sound, just lacks bass



TEST
WINNER03
THE SMARTEST
SYSTEM05
THE SIMPLE
SOLUTION04
THE CHEAPER
OPTION

04 THE CHEAPER OPTION

PHILIPS SOUNDSTAGE HTL4110

£165, PHILIPS.CO.UK

The cheapest on test, the Philips doesn't lack it, and doesn't sound it – initially. The bass is good, and music sounds great, but voices can get lost in loud soundtracks.

An HDMI connection means volume can be controlled by your TV, but there's no pass-through, so it uses up a valuable port. Its own remote offers instant controls to audio tweaks,

and there's even a clever Night mode, which flattens the audio for subdued listening.

Stereo separation is limited, however, and some intense, prolonged sounds drew a popping and warbling sound from the speakers.

T3 SAYS A few audio issues stop this reaching its potential



05 THE SIMPLE SOLUTION

BOSE SOLO 15

£400, BOSE.CO.UK

Like the Canton, this speaker connects to your TV using an analogue or optical audio cable, so its volume is controlled by its own remote.

Cleverly, Bose has provided a full-on universal remote in the box – the idea being that you'll use it to control your TV instead. In practice, this won't work perfectly with all the options on modern

smart TVs, but it's certainly not a bad idea.

The Solo 15 is stymied by a lack of audio options (just a bass dial) and a pretty weak surround effect, but its audio is clear and well-balanced for voices, while its bass is one of the best here.

T3 SAYS Nice enough sound, but it really lacks features

{THE KNOWLEDGE}
WIRED FOR SOUND

All the speakers tested here can connect to your TV using analogue audio cables or optical cables. These carry the sound from the TV, but not any kind of data, which means the volume on the speakers must be controlled separately, with their own remote – not the most convenient option, though maybe not so bad if you have a good universal remote.

However, the Sony, Panasonic and Philips speakers featured here all also offer HDMI connections, which can carry volume commands from your TV to the speaker, so you only need to use the volume buttons on your TV's remote for complete control (provided your TV supports this, and most newer ones will).

PLAY LINK

BY Lenco

MUSIC IS LIFE PRESS PLAY

Control all your favorite tracks with your smartphone or tablet, through the PlayLink app, which is compatible with Android or iOS. It's the ultimate multiroom HiFi system. Simply stream your classic, jazz, pop or rock music from any available streaming service or your own library. In any room, at any moment, wherever you are, whatever you do. PlayLink offers you in every situation a vivid solution. It'll fit your home perfectly and fills it with a powerful and impressive sound. Just press play and start living.

POWERED BY



Robot chores

BOW DOWN TO THE NEW MASTER RACE OF SUPER COMPUTERS, THEN SIT BACK, MAKE YOURSELF A NICE CUPPA AND LET THEM CLEAN UP YOUR HOUSE



Once they become self-aware, the nuclear holocaust is all but inevitable, but for now the robots are at our beck and call.

Although they've been available for over a decade now, robotic vacuums are only just getting good. Loaded with sophisticated mapping technology, ultrasonic and even laser scanners, they will not be deterred in their pursuit of persistent floor fluff.

Sure, they're still super-expensive, and still can't clean the stairs, but we challenge anyone not to get excited by the rise of the (domestic) machines. Here are five of our favourites... →

{CONTENDERS} A (robotic) clean sweep



MIELE SCOUT RX1

£700, MIELE.CO.UK

{SPECIFICATION}

CAPACITY: 0.6 litres
BATTERY LIFE 2 hrs
CHARGE TIME 2 hrs
COVERAGE PER CHARGE
150m²
NOISE (DB) 60dB
POWER/SUCTION
22W
FILTERS AirClean
MODES 4
COLLISION SENSORS
10 (7 collision, 3 fall)
STEP CLIMB 20mm



{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 89mm
DIAMETER 350mm
WEIGHT 2.9kg

{DETAILS}

1

SCREEN

A very basic LCD screen not befitting the stylish look

2

BUILD QUALITY

Glossy finish and eye-catching design, but lightweight and plastic

3

ADDITIONAL FEATURES
Supplied with magnetic strip to block off doorways and restrict movement

Cold robot efficiency and tech wizardry – but not for pet owners

Looking every inch the pimped out Roomba (see page 124), the Scout's Smart Navigation system features a gyro sensor for tracking directional movement and a digital camera that continually scans the ceiling to make sure every inch of floor gets cleaned. Combined with seven front-mounted IR sensors (ten in all) scanning 180° to prevent collisions, it works seamlessly. More polite than the Roomba, it bumps into fewer obstacles, navigating around chair legs and along skirting with precision.

Battery life is impressive at 120 minutes, but as with all robot vacs, assuming you're out when it cleans and it can return to base for recharging before finishing the job at hand, it doesn't make a whole heap of difference.

Controls are clear and simple and the LCD display is bright enough, but the remote control is basic (you can choose start time but not day) and programming feels more like changing the time on a clock radio rather than empowering a robotic revolution.

The twin extra-long side sweepers get right into the corners, and despite not getting as close to furniture as the Roomba the extra reach does the job. There's even a dedicated corner/edge mode that hits the outskirts of

the room twice for double dust-busting, and it can negotiate rugs and door frames up to 2cm thick, which is mightily impressive and means the RX1 spends less time getting stuck.

So far so ruthlessly efficient, but despite the bank of cameras and sensors we were not that impressed by the Scout's performance. At six inches the sweeper is half the width of the Samsung and got tangled faster than the Neato and Roomba. It performed particularly badly with pet hair on both hard floor and carpets, and picked up significantly less fluff, dust and debris compared to the Roomba. Disappointing given Miele's vacuuming pedigree and the price tag.

LOVE Corners like a pro and hugs skirting boards.

Battery life will cover even the largest living room

HATE Poor pet hair cleaning. Basic controls and no

daily timer function. Doesn't give carpets enough love

T3 SAYS Superbly efficient, sensor-heavy robo-maid with great looks but no personality



{KILLER FEATURE} Stealth fighter

With ten different sensors in total, the Scout certainly lives up to its name, keeping a low profile and making for smooth and precise cleaning around the home.



LG HOM-BOT VR62701LVM

£449.95, LGE.COM

{SPECIFICATION}

CAPACITY 0.6 litres
BATTERY LIFE 100 mins
CHARGE TIME 3 hrs
COVERAGE PER CHARGE
N/A
NOISE (DB) 60dB
POWER/SUCTION 18W
FILTERS HEPA
MODES 7
COLLISION SENSORS
Ultrasonic
STEP CLIMB 15mm



{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 89mm
DIAMETER 340mm
WEIGHT 3kg

{DETAILS}

1

SCREEN

Bold red icons do the business, backed up by shrill voice commands

2

BUILD QUALITY

Lightweight but beautiful, we wouldn't like to drop it, but it looks great in the corner

3

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Remote dock on the charging base is a simple stroke of genius

A real looker – admire its appearance as well as its work

LG's stylish square sucker isn't new, but despite its tech-pensioner status it is loaded with camera navigation wizardry. Using a tweaked version of SLAM that takes into account light intensity (II-SLAM, Illumination Invariant-based Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping) and adding a second floor camera, LG claims the dual mapping helps to reduce needless wandering.

The upper camera takes 30 images per second, while the lower Optical Flow Sensor camera measures distances and recognises obstacles and variations in floor type. So far so tech, but does it translate to better cleaning?

The square-ish design of the Hom-Bot, combined with the long twin sweeper arms, means it can get tighter into corners than the rest on test. It still can't quite make it all the way, but LG estimates it can get at 94% of the dust. In practice it works well, but we didn't notice a gulf in performance compared to the Roomba or Neato. At least the extra-length sweeper makes swift work of the skirtings.

Route selection appears considered rather than haphazard, and the bumper sensors tread carefully in tight spots. But Hom-Bot hates rugs and carpets. It's sluggish – despite

boasting an automatic turbo mode that kicks in on carpet – and pick up is poor. Have pets and a carpet? Forget it.

But on hard floors it excels – it's quick, quiet and efficient. Move it and it will remember its last position in the room and return to it to avoid unnecessary repetition.

The random Zig-Zag mode makes quick work of large open spaces while the Cell by Cell cycle breaks down the space into manageable chunks – ideal if you have lots of furniture. You can even program it to cover a specific area using the remote. It can only remember one route, but is handy if you want an extra clean around the cat basket or under a high chair.

LOVE Super-quiet operation. Dual-camera mapping and hard floor cleaning performance

HATE Carpet cleaning is woeful. Not great for pet owners. Gloss finish attracts dirt like a toddler

T3 SAYS... A hard floor-cleaning maestro, but it does struggle with pet hair pick-up



{KILLER FEATURE} Super sweep

The Hom-Bot makes swift work of skirtings and even tackles tricky corners thanks to its extra long sweeping arms and square design.



SAMSUNG POWERBOT VR9000

£799, SAMSUNG.CO.UK



{SPECIFICATION}

CAPACITY 0.7 litres
BATTERY LIFE 100 mins
CHARGE TIME 160 mins
COVERAGE PER CHARGE
N/A
NOISE (dB) 69-76dB
POWER/SUCTION 35W
FILTERS 2
MODES 7
COLLISION SENSORS N/A
STEP CLIMB 15mm



{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 135mm
LENGTH 378mm
WIDTH 362mm
WEIGHT 4.5kg

{DETAILS}

1 SCREEN
Big, bright icons, simple operation and very clear instructions

2 BUILD QUALITY
A big old hunk of plastic, heavier than the rest and built to last

3 ADDITIONAL FEATURES
Battery-powered Virtual Guard prevents Powerbot from running off

Speed and precision – but you may need some earplugs

Unlike anything else on the market (although Dyson will give it some competition in the new year). Samsung has ditched the hockey puck look and created the first robot vacuum that actually looks like a vacuum cleaner. Well sort of. It's a beast compared to the rest, features a whopping 12-inch sweeper bar (just like you'd find on a regular vacuum cleaner) and uses CycloneForce technology (just like a proper bagless vacuum).

The result is an extremely powerful appliance – Samsung claims it has 60 times more welly than any of its competitors – that can suck up dust with excellent speed and efficiency. But great suction doesn't guarantee a clean floor, which is why the robot half of the VR9000 comes with a load of impressive tech: two CPU chips, a bank of sensors and a Visionary Mapping Plus camera that takes 15 images per second to help plot the most efficient route around your house.

And the combination works; the Powerbot navigates with speed and precision and left our carpets all fluffed up and properly cleaned. It is extremely loud (although there's a reduced power silence button), but we couldn't hear it run from our home office so didn't really care.

That said, if you are bored at home there are whole minutes of fun to be had with the Point Cleaning function. Beam down on any spot with the remote control and the Powerbot will head straight over and give it a vacuum. Slick certainly, pointless (ahem), probably.

Unfortunately, the VR9000 isn't completely problem free. It lacks side sweeper brushes, so you can forget about cleaning right up to the skirting boards. It also struggles to haul itself over most door mats and deep-pile rugs. But when it gets it right – which, to be fair, it does most of the time – it cleans just as well as a bagless manual machine.

LOVE Full-sized vacuum power. Laser-guided spot cleaning. Smooth tracking for effortless cleaning
HATE Can feel a bit too fast to be effective. Can't clean right to the edges. Sounds like a jet fighter taking off
T3 SAYS The Powerbot is a muscled-up dust-busting powerhouse – a genuine home help



{KILLER FEATURE} Point taken

An ingenious idea, the Powerbot comes with a handy remote control. Simply point it at a spot you want cleaned and the Powerbot will happily oblige.



NO SOUND UNHEARD



**FULL PC GAME
INSIDE**

**ASSASSIN'S
CREED
UNITY**

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PREMIUM 5.1 SURROUND HEADSET WITH USB REMOTE & SOUND CARD

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5.1 SPEAKER PORTS
OUTPUT MODE SWITCHING



£449. NEATOROBOTICS.COM

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Feed your mind



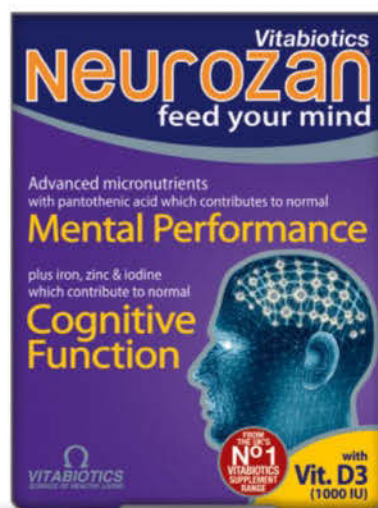
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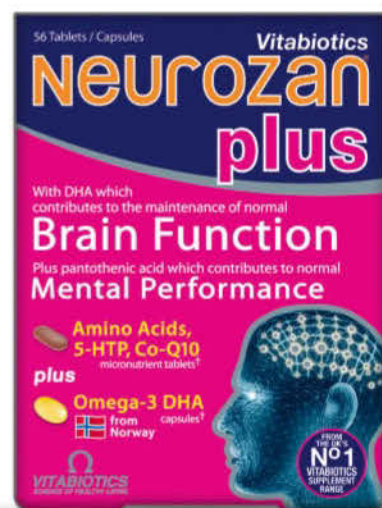
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*(IRI value data. 52 w/e 2 Nov 13).


VITABIOTICS
SCIENCE OF HEALTHY LIVING

IROBOT ROOMBA 880

£599.99. IROBOT.CO.UK



{SPECIFICATION}

CAPACITY N/A
(0.5-litre estimate)
BATTERY LIFE 1 hr
CHARGE TIME 2 hrs
COVERAGE PER CHARGE
37m²
NOISE (DB) 57dB
POWER/SUCTION n/a
FILTERS HEPA
MODES 3
COLLISION SENSORS
"Multiple"
STEP CLIMB 13mm



{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 90mm
DIAMETER 350mm
WEIGHT 3.8kg

{DETAILS}

1

SCREEN

Basic LCD and LED indicators. It's low tech but effective

2

BUILD QUALITY

Light but robust, it'll take a kick or two without complaining

3

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

HEPA filters trap tiny dust particles, which is great for allergy sufferers

Household name sweeps the competition aside

iRobot makes bomb-disposing military hardware – and vacuums. The Roomba brand has been around for decades, but the flagship 880 offers something totally new. Instead of a traditional brush bar it has two soft rubber rollers or 'extractors', the idea being that the AeroForce System picks up more pet hair, never gets clogged and offers better suction.

Navigation also differs from the rest, and unlike the Neato's regimented mapping the 880 iAdapt system seems decidedly scattergun; albeit one driven by complex algorithms and a bucket full of sensors. As a result, it takes an age to clean a room, and bumps into furniture rather than pre-empting obstacles and taking evasive action. But it does clean right up to the edge of the wall and can just about get into the corners using its long sweeper arm.

Programming is a cinch, and unless you play RC Vac with the remote, you'll just set the day/time schedule and forget about it. It also comes with two 'virtual wall' sensors, which create a barrier the 880 won't cross.

Our only serious gripe concerns the charging station. The mains cable can only plug into the left-hand side of the charging

base. This isn't a big deal, but because the base has to be flush against the wall it does severely limit your choice of location.

Unlike the Samsung, which accurately maps out a floor plan, the 880 estimates the approximate size of a room and decides how long it needs to run in order to get it clean. It's not as cutting edge, but the results speak for themselves. Assuming you set it to clean while you're out you shouldn't care how long it takes, and you can reap the rewards of a thorough clean. Great at picking up pet hair and exceptionally good on carpets, we were astonished – and horrified – by the amount of debris it snaffled.

LOVE Impressive pet hair performance.

Efficient carpet cleaning. Simple programming

HATE Docking station drives us nuts. Small dust container. Slow if you're sad enough to sit and watch it

T3 SAYS... It might lack tech spec, but you'll not find better performance on the market



{KILLER FEATURE} Barrier to entry

Want to keep the Roomba confined to a particular room or space within your house? You can create virtual barriers using the two included wall sensors.



SPEC SHOT



**MIELE
SCOUT RX1**



**LG HOM-BOT
VR62701LVM**



**SAMSUNG
POWERBOT VR9000**



**NEATO
BOTVAC 85**



**IROBOT
ROOMBA 880**

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRICE, URL | £700, MIELE.COM | £449.95, LGE.COM | £799, SAMSUNG.CO.UK | £449, NEATOROBOTICS.COM | £599.99, IROBOT.CO.UK |
| CAPACITY | 0.6 litres | 0.6 litres | 0.7 litres | 0.7 litres | N/A (est. 1.5 litres) |
| BATTERY LIFE | 2 hours | 100 minutes | 100 minutes | Up to 4.5 hours | 1 hour |
| CHARGE TIME | 2 hours | 3 hours | 160 minutes | 2-3 hours | 2 hours |
| COVERAGE PER CHARGE | 150m² | N/A | N/A | Up to 250m² | 37m² |
| NOISE (DB) | 60dB | 60dB | 69-76dB | 69dB | 57dB |
| POWER/SUCTION | 22W | 18W | 35W | 40W | N/A |
| FILTERS | AirClean | HEPA | 2 | 3 | HEPA |
| MODES | 4 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| COLLISION SENSORS | 10 (7 collision, 3 fall) | Ultrasonic | N/A | N/A | "Multiple" |
| STEP CLIMB | 20mm | 15mm | 15mm | 1.5mm (approx) | 13mm |
| LOVE | Corners like a pro and hugs skirting boards. Battery life will cover the largest rooms | Super-quiet operation. Dual-camera mapping and hard floor cleaning skills | Full-sized vacuum power. Laser-guided spot cleaning. Smooth tracking | Larger capacity. Impressive dust collection. Pragmatic approach. Affordable | Impressive pet hair pick-up. Efficient cleaning. Simple programming |
| HATE | Poor pet hair cleaning. Basic controls and no daily timer function. Not careful enough | Carpet cleaning is woeful. Not great for pet owners. Gloss finish attracts dirt | Can feel a bit too fast to be effective. Can't clean right to the edges. Really loud | Louder than the Samsung. Gets confused and clogged easily. Tiny sweeper arm | Docking station drives us nuts. Small dust container. Slow if you sit and watch it |
| T3 SAYS | Superbly efficient, sensor heavy robo-maid with great looks but no personality | A hard floor-cleaning maestro, but it does struggle with pet hair pick-up | A muscled-up dust-busting power house – a genuine home help | Laser-guided tech-laden dust bot without the scary price tag | It might lack tech spec, but you'll not find better performance on the market |
| RATING | | | | | |

{SUCK IT UP} Time to brush up on the competition

THE DYSON 360 EYE

Available in the new year, the Dyson 360 Eye is bulbous, wi-fi connected, supremely powerful and every inch a Dyson. App control should make scheduling cleaning sessions easier, while the 'eye' navigation system

consists of infrared sensors and a panoramic lens with a 360° camera that sees everything. Chuck in a carbon-fibre brush bar, supreme suction and tank-style caterpillar treads and you've got one beast of a bot. We can't wait to try it.

£TBC, DYSON360EYE.COM



AEG AG3013 ERGORAPIDO VACUUM

Robots can only do so much, so you'll be needing a back-up vacuum for those hard to reach spots – stairs in particular. Few traditional vacuums can beat this two-in-one bagless handheld 'stick', which takes up very little room, has a 35-minute battery life and gets to those places untouched by artificial intelligence.

£229.95, AEG.CO.UK



{THE FINAL WORD} TEDIOUS CHORES ELIMINATED – AT A PRICE

Live with a robot vacuum for just a few weeks and two things will quickly become clear; you don't vacuum nearly enough and your idea of 'clean' is not especially clean. And this goes for clean freaks and slovenly slobbs alike, because robot vacuums are relentless, ruthless cleaning machines. They don't do 'a quick once around', they're meticulous and driven to cover every inch of floorspace.

But even our best buy – the Roomba – is far from the perfect cleaner. In a head-to-head with our mum it would fail miserably. Robot vacs can't tackle the stairs for one thing, and despite having advanced mapping technology, cameras and even laser guidance, they get stuck on rugs, jammed between chair legs and cause havoc with cables.

None of these models are designed to replace a normal vacuum, but what they all do well is taking the edge off the weekly clean – especially if you have pets. If you live a minimalist existence in a penthouse apartment then, thanks to your new robot friend, you may never need to vacuum again, but if you've a house full of kids, toys, pets and general chaos, you might find yourself with one more thing to tidy away when you get home from work.

{REASONS}

Why you should be doing the Roomba

1

The AeroForce rubberised sweeper system never gets tangled, meaning fewer interruptions.

2

It's great at picking up pet hair, even from carpets, a task many competitors struggled with.

3

Simple to program to vacuum on any day at any time. One less thing to worry about.

4

Takes its time to clean and covers more ground (repeatedly) than the rest on test.

5


HEPA-grade filters stop dust from escaping into the house and undoing all its hard work.

Serious power. Clean water. On any stove. **KETTLE CHARGE.**

 **10W on-demand power**
Within minutes it's ready to charge phones, tablets and lights with the output of a wall outlet

 **Battery boost**
Stores power between uses for a quick charge when heat or water aren't handy (holds 1.5 smartphone charges)

 **Use on any stove**
Works on home ranges, portable stoves & the BioLite CampStove

 **Boils water**
Heat up or sterilize 750ml of water for cooking, drinking, and cleaning

 **Smart dashboard**
Get instant feedback on the heat of the kettle and the amount of power being generated



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ATOMIC FLOYD SUPERDARTS TITANIUM

£249, ATOMICFLOYD.COM

When it comes to kick-ass earphones, they simply don't come any prettier than Atomic Floyds.

The brand is known for its excellent, powerful sound and premium materials, and top of the brand's range sit the brand new SuperDarts Titanium. We tested the original SuperDarts in 2011, and we absolutely loved them for their incredibly rich sound and superb build quality. Form wise, the new model looks very similar, except this time they're forged from precision-turned space grade titanium. That makes them stronger *and* lighter than the originals, and guess what, they sound even better too.

Each earbud contains two drivers: an 8.6mm dynamic driver and a neodymium magnet-balanced armature. As a result they deliver monstrously punchy bass, super-crisp treble and a creamy smooth mid-range in between, leaving your ears feeling gloriously enriched and fulfilled.

The cable is lined with kevlar, which means it's almost impossible for them to get tied up in knots, and the earphones come with a variety of different ear tips made from different materials and at different sizes, so your ears should have no problem finding the room for them.

Yes, these earphones are expensive, but they're also incredible and come highly, highly recommended.

LOVE Amazing sound. Gorgeous looks. Made from premium materials. Tough as nails. They're practically unbeatable

HATE The hefty price tag makes them quite an investment

T3 SAYS Audiophiles might say they're too bassy, but for everyone else these earphones are as good as it gets



{SPECIFICATIONS}

DRIVERS 8.6mm dynamic driver with neodymium magnet balanced armature
TYPE Closed, noise isolating
SENSITIVITY 98dB
SPL/mW (1 kHz)
FREQUENCY RANGE 5-25,000Hz
MATERIAL Titanium
WEIGHT 2.8g per earphone
PLUG Titanium sleeve, high purity gold connector



AMAZON FIRE TV

£79, AMAZON.CO.UK

With Fire TV, Amazon has officially entered the streaming set-top box battle that may ultimately decide the future of how we get content onto our television screens.

Available in the UK for £79, it's a dinky device that sits slyly under your tellybox and offers a snappy and responsive user interface as it seeks to provide myriad online streaming solutions for your grateful eyeballs.

It's packing some serious Qualcomm silicon (for a set-top box, anyway), so it can easily handle not only video, but music and gaming too; plus you can plump for the optional gaming controller (which is available for £40) to access over 100 games at launch.

One of the niftiest features is voice search, which lets you whisper sweet commands into the sleek, glossy remote and have the words – and the content you're looking for – appear magically on the screen in front of you. However, like most things in Fire TV, it only shows content from Amazon's own services, rather than videos from across the BBC or Netflix.

In short, this is a good first try from Amazon that would be amazing if it gave a fairer skew to all the content currently on offer.

LOVE Clever voice recognition. Slim dimensions.

High quality at a surprisingly low cost

HATE Slanted towards Amazon service

WE SAY A very capable video streamer. We just wish it didn't shove Amazon's apps in our faces



{SPECIFICATIONS}

STORAGE 8GB
RAM 2GB
CHIPSET Qualcomm Snapdragon ARMv7
CPU Qualcomm Quad Core Krait 300
GPU Qualcomm Adreno 320
WI-FI 802.11 b/g/n; 2x2 MIMO
BLUETOOTH 4.0
DIMENSIONS 115x115x17.5mm
WEIGHT 281g

T3.COM
HAS
EXTENDED
REVIEWS
OF ALL
THESE...



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Play Together



ODDSOCK



TOGGLE

LittleBigPlanetTM 3

**Coming
28th November**

**With all new 4 player
local co-op play**



SACKBOY



SWOOP

PS4TM



T3 TheGuide }

{THE BEST OF EVERYTHING}

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Tablets p134

Headphones p136

Laptops p138

Gaming p140

Home entertainment p142

Home audio p144

Televisions p147

Cameras p148

Accessories p152

Top tens THE place to start researching your next gadget-buying jaunt. For an even more up-to-the-minute snapshot of our latest wish-lists, check out t3.com/best-gadgets.

Scores The products featured in The Guide are reassessed regularly against what's new, hip and happening. As a result, we will re-rate older products to reflect the current market.

Prices We scour the web for the best prices we can find at trusted retailers. Even so, check the most up-to-date deals before getting out your Solo, Access or Diner's Club card.



AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Smartphones



{BUYING TIPS}

Phablets that punch their weight

1

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 3

An array of clever, stylus-focused extras give this 5.7-inch the edge.
£430, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

3

LG G FLEX

A slightly curved variant on the phablet theme, with six inches of screen girth.
£325, LG.COM/UK

4

NOKIA 1520

Hulking yet sexy slab carries the Windows Phone flag in its enlarged fist. Fast, apart from the camera.
£340, NOKIA.CO.UK

2

SONY XPERIA Z ULTRA

A stellar 6.4-inch screen, a mighty fine camera and impressive slimmess.
£310, SONYMOBILE.COM

01

SAMSUNG GALAXY S5

★★★★★ £464, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Updated interface. Incredibly bright screen. Plethora of innovative features and excellent battery-saving mode
HATE Sensors are great, but the accuracy isn't there yet
T3 SAYS The S5 throws everything at its bid for Android supremacy, and it just about pays off

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.5GHz quadcore SCREEN 5.1-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 16-meg/4K STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

02

HTC ONE M8

★★★★★ £507, HTC.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Stunning metallic build. Great camera upgrades. Quadcore processor runs like a dream. Inspired Dot Matrix case
HATE Fewer flashy headline features
T3 SAYS The most stylish Android. Lacks headline features of others, but what's there works and looks top

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore SCREEN 5-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 4-ultrapixel/1080p STORAGE 16GB

03

APPLE iPhone 5S

★★★★★ FROM £549, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Powerful processor. Slick iOS 7. Looks premium (even in gold). Fingerprint security. One of the best phone cams around
HATE Pricing on higher-storage models is crazy
T3 SAYS The innovations here really wow, but it can't hold back an attack from its newest Android rival

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB, 32GB or 64GB

04

SAMSUNG GALAXY S5 MINI

★★★★★ £389, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Array of sensors and features. Water resistant. Appealing screen at a more manageable size than S5 big bro
HATE Average battery. Full-size S5 has a better spec
T3 SAYS Almost as good as the full-size S5, for considerably less dosh. You can't argue with that

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 1.4GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.7-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB plus microSD

05

GOOGLE NEXUS 5

★★★★★ FROM £299, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Incredible 1080p display. Android KitKat operating system. Staggeringly affordable price tag
HATE Average camera. No 64GB option
T3 SAYS The best ever Nexus phone is a top Android blower, offering a heck of a lot for not much dosh

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.95-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

06

SONY XPERIA Z1 COMPACT

★★★★★ FROM £345, SONYMOBILE.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Premium waterproof design, just like its big brother. Brilliant 4.3-inch display. Powerful processor
HATE Lack of Android 4.4. Sony's own interface feels dated
T3 SAYS The scaled-down version of the Xperia Z1 loses very little of the original's appeal

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.3-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 20.7-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB plus microSD

07

HTC ONE MINI 2

★★★★★ £380, HTC.COM/UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE High-end metal design. Excellent display. Strong camera. Generally premium feel for under 400 quid
HATE Battery won't last a long day. Processor can lag
T3 SAYS Sublimely designed, the HTC is a head-turner that also qualifies as affordable

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 1.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.5-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 13-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB plus microSD

08

SONY XPERIA Z2

★★★★★ £483, SONYMOBILE.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Big display with brilliant image quality. Powerful processor. Excellent camera. Waterproof
HATE Too little built-in storage. Sony's interface needs work
T3 SAYS A full-featured and rugged Android smartphone. Not quite as slick as some of its rivals, though

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore SCREEN 5.2-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 20-meg/4K STORAGE 16GB

09

LG G3

★★★★★ £479, LG.COM/UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Remarkable high-res display. Laser-focused camera. Slick new re-skinning of Android KitKat
HATE Very big. Plastic cover. Rear controls still a divider
T3 SAYS The G3 is bigger, with added lasers and an incredibly sharp screen, but it's no Android champ

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 2.46GHz quadcore SCREEN 5.5-inch, 1440x2560
CAMERA 13-meg/4K STORAGE 16GB

10

NOKIA LUMIA 635

★★★★★ £130, NOKIA.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Punchy design with neat feel, great build and funky colours. Strong Windows 8.1 OS. Decent camera, too
HATE Low-res display, although it actually doesn't look bad
T3 SAYS Great design with ace software, this is a massive bargain and punches well above its weight

SPECIFICATIONS

PROCESSOR 1.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.5-inch, 854x480
CAMERA 5-meg/1080p STORAGE 8GB plus microSD



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Tablets



01

APPLE IPAD MINI WITH RETINA

★★★★★ FROM £319, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Retina screen. Speedy and sleek. More LTE bands and 128GB option. Best app store going. Perfect size for everyday use
HATE Touch ID would have been nice, but not essential
T3 SAYS **Apple's smallest iPad is still its best, for us, now with specs that match the larger iPad Air**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 7.9-inch, 2048x1536 STORAGE 16GB/32GB/64GB/128GB

02

APPLE IPAD AIR

★★★★★ FROM £399, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Stunning design. Blazing performance from the new A7 processor. Incredibly thin and lightweight
HATE No fingerprint sensor. Camera remains unchanged
T3 SAYS **That big Retina screen. Those sleek, slimline looks. This is Apple's best full-sized iPad yet**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 9.7-inch, 2048x1536 STORAGE 16GB/32GB/64GB/128GB

03

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S 8.4

★★★★★ FROM £319, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE The most portable eight-incher tablet out there, with the best screen. Better than the iPad in some respects
HATE Samsung's interface is a bit bloated
T3 SAYS **A wonderfully sculpted, ultra-portable package with an AMOLED screen to die for**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.4 PROCESSOR 1.9GHz octacore SCREEN 8.4-inch, 2560x1600 STORAGE 16GB/32GB

04

GOOGLE NEXUS 7

★★★★★ FROM £199, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2013

LOVE Beautiful, high-res screen. Processing power boosted to 1.5GHz. Lightweight, compact build. Very affordable
HATE Lack of tablet-optimised apps
T3 SAYS **The hardware is excellent, but there are too few tablet-specific Android apps to topple Apple yet**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.3 PROCESSOR 1.5GHz quadcore SCREEN 7.2-inch, 1920x1200 STORAGE 16GB/32GB

05

APPLE IPAD MINI

★★★★★ FROM £249, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE The pocket-friendly, 7.9-inch screen with ultra-slim bezel looks fantastic and works great. 4G LTE. Very good value now
HATE No Retina display. Now only in 16GB version
T3 SAYS **Apple's first miniature tablet can still turn heads, but it's been beaten on specs of late**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR 1GHz dualcore SCREEN 7.9-inch, 1024x768 STORAGE 16GB

06

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S 10.3-INCH

★★★★★ FROM £499, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Ace screen. Octacore power. First tab fingerprint sensor
HATE Sensor needs finessing. Android tablet apps still lacking
T3 SAYS **Samsung's best tablet: slimmer, slicker, sexier**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.4 PROCESSOR 1.9GHz octacore SCREEN 10.3-inch, 2560x1600 STORAGE 16GB/32GB plus microSD

07

SONY XPERIA Z2 TABLET

★★★★★ FROM £399, SONYMOBILE.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Slim, waterproof build with newly rounded edges. Fantastic screen. Great battery life, extended by Stamina mode
HATE Lots of bloatware. Sizeable bezel around screen
T3 SAYS **In the category of best ten-inch Android slate, Sony's Xperia Z2 Tablet is king**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.4 PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore SCREEN 10.1-inch, 1920x1200 STORAGE 16GB/32GB

08

NOKIA LUMIA 2520

★★★★★ £300, NOKIA.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Tactile, attractive design. Speedy performance. Nokia's own-brand apps add to Windows 8.1
HATE Runs watered-down version of Windows 8.1
T3 SAYS **This is not the most powerful Windows tablet on the market, but it is the nicest to use**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Windows 8.1 PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 10.1-inch, 1920x1080 STORAGE 32GB

09

LENOVO YOGA 10 HD+

★★★★★ £300, LENOVO.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE The screen boasts nicely vivid colours, perfect for movies and games. Battery life is jaw-droppingly good
HATE Bulky grip. Awkward positioning of rear camera
T3 SAYS **It's big and chunky, but amazing battery life more than makes up for it**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.4.2 PROCESSOR 400CPU quadcore SCREEN 10.1-inch, 1920x1200 STORAGE 16GB/32GB

10

MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO 3

★★★★★ FROM £649, MICROSOFT.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

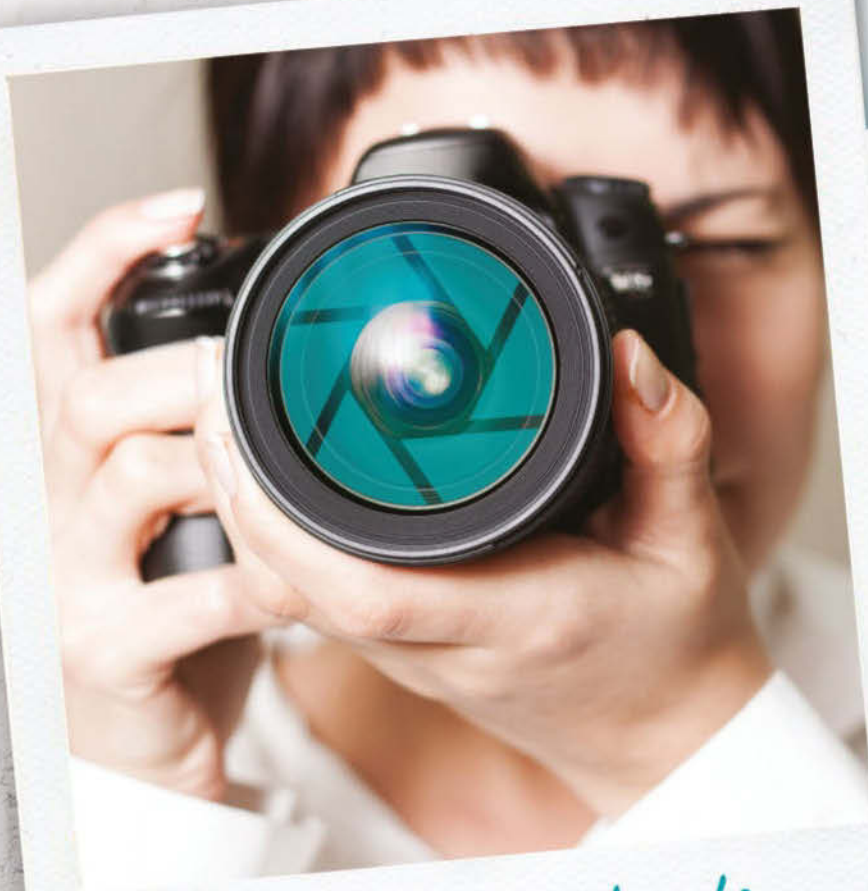
LOVE Super, sharp screen. Runs full apps through Windows
HATE Keyboard not included. Decidedly pricey. Windows 8 is less than optimum as a tablet OS
T3 SAYS **A real tablet-laptop hybrid, this one is up for fun and work, although primarily the latter**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Windows 8.1 Pro PROCESSOR Intel core i3/i5/i7 SCREEN 12-inch, 2160x1440 STORAGE 64GB/128GB/256GB/512GB



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Headphones



01

PIONEER SE-MX9-T

★★★★★ £249, PIONEER.EU, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Based on the acclaimed HDJ-2000 DJ cans.

Suitably luxe looks and superior sound quality

HATE Could be comfier, if we're griping. Pricey

T3 SAYS **Grown-up, luxury headphones for serious clubbers and fans of DJ-quality audio**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 6-40,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

02



B&W P3

★★★★★ £169, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2012

LOVE Compact and lightweight, but undeniably premium. Clear

and deep audio. Any colour you want, as long as it's black or white

HATE Head grippage could be overly firm for some

T3 SAYS **Highly refined headphones with stunning sound quality. The sign of a true audio gent**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 34 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10-20,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

03



KEF M500

★★★★★ £249, KEF.COM, TESTED AUGUST 2013

LOVE Detailed sound quality. Memory foam increases comfort

and minimises sound leakage. Classic look

HATE Pricey. Occasional headband slippage

T3 SAYS **Accomplished audio + high-end materials + restrained design = cans worthy of a £250 price tag**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 20-20,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.3m

04



MONSTER ISPORT STRIVE

★★★★★ £59, MONSTERPRODUCTS.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Brilliant fit that holds tight during vigorous workouts.

Sweat- and water-resistant, with a tangle-free cable

HATE More open sound (good for staying alert, though)

T3 SAYS **Stylish, sporty in-ears with an unmovable fit and great sound quality. Designed for winners**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE Not quoted FREQUENCY RANGE Not quoted

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

05



PHILIPS FIDELIO S2

★★★★★ £84, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Tight in-ear buds, impressive bass and superb sound

isolation. Comfortable fit. Stylish design. Newly affordable

HATE After the price cut, we're really struggling here...

T3 SAYS **Top styling, sound, comfort and price tag make these in-ears well worth splashing out on**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 22 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 15-24,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

{BUYING TIPS}

Portable media-playing pals

1

APPLE IPOD TOUCH

A quality combo of music, apps and games. Latest version is better than ever, and more colourful.

FROM £159, APPLE.COM/UK

2

APPLE IPOD NANO

New, larger 2.5-inch touchscreen. Now only available as 16GB model.

£129, APPLE.COM/UK

3

ASTEEL AND KERN AK100

Audiophile option for lossless lovers. Sound impresses; price distresses.

£557, AMP3.CO.UK

4

SONY WALKMAN

NWZ-E474

Clear audio and 36 hours playback. Just 8GB storage and a dated look, though.

£85, SONY.CO.UK



SENNHEISER MOMENTUM

★★★★★ £260, SENNHEISER.COM, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE Great sound. Excellent build quality. Very comfortable indeed, with minimal sound leakage

HATE Monster carry case. Hefty size and price

T3 SAYS **Robust build, lightweight design and comfy earcups make these great for music lovers on the move**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 18 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 16-22,000KHz

CORD LENGTH 1.4m



TED BAKER ROCKALL

★★★★★ £180, TEDBAKER.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Premium materials. Sturdy build. Well-rounded sound rather than being a bass-heavy boomer

HATE Not cheap. Plenty of competition in this price bracket

T3 SAYS **An impressive headphones debut that proves cans can be stylish without sacrificing quality**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 16 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 20-20,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m



AKG K67

★★★★★ £65, SOUNDTECH.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Approved by Tiësto, but cost less than entry to some club nights. Dance music is, unsurprisingly, realised well

HATE No in-line remote. Very snug fit

T3 SAYS **Club-quality sound for a reduced entrance fee. These over-ears are a quite ridiculous bargain**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 18-24,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.8m



B&W P7

★★★★★ £329, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Superb sound reproduction modelled on high-end hi-fi speakers. Comfortable, premium build

HATE Bit big for regular commuting

T3 SAYS **B&W's over-ears are luxurious in both sound and build quality, but a touch too pricey**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE 22 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10Hz-20KHz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m



BEATS STUDIO WIRELESS

★★★★★ £330, UK.BEATSBYDRE.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Beats' most sophisticated design. Comfortable fit. Well-rounded sound quality. Good noise cancelling

HATE Pricey. Noise cancelling audible at low volumes

T3 SAYS **The best Beats yet, though the niggles make that price tag a bit hard to swallow**

SPECIFICATIONS

IMPEDANCE Not quoted FREQUENCY RANGE Not quoted

CORD LENGTH Not applicable



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LINDY HF-100 Headphones, September 2011

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- 2 SONY VAIO TAP 20**
A touchscreen Windows 8 all-in-one whose screen detaches to become a hulking, 20-inch tablet. £1,000, SONY.CO.UK
- 3 DELL XPS ONE 27**
Windows 8 looks great on the 27-inch touchscreen, with an Apple-rivalling spec and Blu-ray drive thrown in. FROM £1,479, DELL.CO.UK
- 4 TOSHIBA LX830-11D**
Solid all-in-one that moonlights as a Freeview recorder and DVD player. £759, TOSHIBA.CO.UK

01

APPLE MACBOOK AIR

★★★★★ FROM £749, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Slimline looks, great battery life, cheaper than last year's model, comes in 11- and 13-inch sizes. Now with Mavericks OS
HATE No Retina display

T3 SAYS *The world's best, ultra-portable laptop*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768/13.3-inch, 1440x900
PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 1.3GHz/4GB STORAGE 128GB or 256GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

02

DELL XPS 15

★★★★★ £1,249, DELL.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

LOVE Amazing screen. Excellent build quality. Top performer thanks to powerful processor and graphics card. Good VFM
HATE Heavy. No solid state drive

T3 SAYS *An incredibly powerful laptop for the price and still gives most MacBooks a run for their money*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 15.3-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i7 2.1GHz/8GB STORAGE 1TB HDD QUOTED BATTERY 8hrs

03

DELL VENUE 11 PRO

★★★★★ £328, DELL.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER

LOVE Capable and powerful when used as a tablet, laptop or makeshift desktop PC. Very smart functionality
HATE Keyboard and desktop dock cost extra

T3 SAYS *Surprisingly powerful and much more than just a Windows 8 tablet if you stump up for all the add-ons*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 10.8-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM 2.4GHz quadcore/2GB STORAGE 64GB SSD BATTERY Not quoted

04

APPLE MACBOOK PRO 13-INCH

★★★★★ £1,249, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE New Retina display is stunning. Thinner and lighter. More storage space packed inside, too
HATE Can get hot. Battery life's not brilliant. No physical drives

T3 SAYS *If you're after power, Apple's new Pro laptop is lighter, better and cheaper than ever*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 13-inch, 2560x1600 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 2.4GHz/8GB STORAGE 256GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

05

HP SPECTRE XT

★★★★★ £850, HP.COM/UK, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE Attractive and sturdy all-metal design. Seriously thin and portable. Great battery life. Beats Audio. Reasonably priced
HATE Tricky touchpad. Screen could be better

T3 SAYS *The smartest ultrabook – what it lacks in power it makes up for in style and portability*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 1.7GHz/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 7.5hrs

06

ACER C7 CHROMEBOOK

★★★★★ £217, ACER.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE Incredible price tag. Decent screen and acceptable processor. 100GB of cloud storage
HATE Chrome OS lacks support. Requires web connection

T3 SAYS *The sheer cheapness makes this a very good second machine, or one for undemanding users*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.1GHz Intel dualcore/2GB STORAGE 320GB HDD QUOTED BATTERY 3hrs

07

SONY VAIO DUO 13

★★★★★ £915, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Slimline Windows 8 laptop/tablet hybrid. Stylishly designed. Fantastic touchscreen. Battery lasts all day
HATE Lack of storage for that crazy price tag

T3 SAYS *Got money to burn on an overpriced Windows 8 hybrid? You could do a lot worse than this*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.6GHz i5/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 10hrs

08

LENOVO YOGA PRO 2

★★★★★ £1,000, LENOVO.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Incredibly sharp quad-HD screen. Bends and twists to become a tablet or laptop
HATE For this price you could get a tablet and a laptop

T3 SAYS *An incredibly versatile, but also exceedingly pricey, portable computing option*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 13.1-inch, 3200x1800 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.6GHz Core i5/4GB STORAGE 256GB HDD BATTERY Not quoted

09

TOSHIBA CHROMEBOOK CB30-102

★★★★★ £230, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Bargain price tag (although pricier than the HP, below), slimline looks and a surprisingly decent battery life
HATE Limited power and storage. Reliance on web

T3 SAYS *Can't compete on specs with most laptops, but is very portable and pretty affordable*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.4GHz dualcore/2GB STORAGE 16GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

10

HP CHROMEBOOK 11

★★★★★ £199, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Elegant styling. Very light, yet sturdy. Reduced spec is still up to most day-to-day tasks
HATE Reliance on a web connection

T3 SAYS *It's no power player, but this budget, web-dependent laptop is a steal for the spec*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.7GHz dualcore/2GB STORAGE 16GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 6hrs



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Gaming



01

MICROSOFT XBOX 360 250GB

★★★★★ £189, XBOX.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2011

LOVE Affordable but powerful games machine. Feast of big series like *Gears of War* and indie gems. Sky support. Ace online service
HATE No Blu-ray. About 97 in gadget years. Ad-laden interface
T3 SAYS **A slick and powerful games and media machine. Outgunned but hanging on with a quality back catalogue**

SPECIFICATIONS

STORAGE 4GB BLU-RAY/DVD No/Yes

CONNECTIVITY HDMI, 5x USB, ethernet, N Wi-Fi, AV out

02



SONY PS3 SUPER SLIM

★★★★★ £145, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE A Blu-ray player and media server that's 3D-ready and supports the Move controller (£24). Oh, and you can play games on it, too, with some very good exclusives like *Last of Us*
HATE Horrid plasticky quality to latest model

T3 SAYS **A top gaming option if you can bear the new build**

SPECIFICATIONS

STORAGE 12GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes

CONNECTIVITY HDMI, 2x USB, ethernet, G Wi-Fi, AV out

03



NINTENDO 3DS XL

★★★★★ £150, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

LOVE Bigger screens look great. Ergonomic curved design. Boosted battery life. Increasingly impressive game selection
HATE Looks a bit cheap. No AC adaptor. 3D is a gimmick

T3 SAYS **Look past the kiddie graphics and you'll find an ace handheld with the best game line-up of last year**

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 4.88-inch 800x240 3D/4.18-inch 320x240 touchscreen

CONNECTIVITY G Wi-Fi, 3.5mm audio BATTERY 4hrs

04



SONY PLAYSTATION 4

★★★★★ £350, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Most powerful next-gen console. Ergonomic new controller. Stylish design. Remote Play with PS Vita is ace. Decent price
HATE Light on games and media. Interface basic. Camera extra

T3 SAYS **Very powerful and stylishly built. The PS4's potential is there, even if it's light on must-buy games**

SPECIFICATIONS

STORAGE 500GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes

CONNECTIVITY 2x USB 3.0, N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, HDMI, optical audio, ethernet

05



MICROSOFT XBOX ONE

★★★★★ £349, XBOX.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Powerful spec. Vastly improved functionality. Gameplay sharing easy. Now available without Kinect. Price cut-a-roo
HATE Brutish design. Lack of games. Fiddly interface

T3 SAYS **Completely outguns the Xbox 360 in power and the potential is there, but lagging behind the PS4 still**

SPECIFICATIONS

STORAGE 500GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes

CONNECTIVITY 3x USB 3.0, N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, HDMI, ethernet, optical audio

{BUYING TIPS}

Gaming laptops with skills

1

ALIENWARE 18

Heavy and built to win, this is a powerhouse. Non-gamers need not apply.
£1,999, ALIENWARE.CO.UK

2

CHILLBLAST HELIX

Unusually svelte for a games machine, this runs a bit hot, but performance is pretty scorching too.
£1,250, CHILLBLAST.CO.UK

3

MSI GS60 2PC GHOST

A slim and light laptop that punches well above its fighting weight.
£1,199, MSI.COM

4

TOSHIBA SATELLITE P50T-B-10K

A gaming portable not out of place in the office, though lacks oomph.
£1,200, TOSHIBA.CO.UK

06



SONY PLAYSTATION VITA

★★★★★ £146, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE New model is lighter and thinner, with more storage. Improved battery. Good games. Remote Play with PS4
HATE No more OLED screen. Less premium

T3 SAYS Great portable game console is made slightly more enticing. Coupled with PS+ service, it's a real player

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 5-inch, 960x544 LCD touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, USB, SD, NFC BATTERY 4-6hrs

07



APPLE IPOD TOUCH

★★★★★ FROM £199, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2012

LOVE Beautifully designed and now packing iOS 7. Bigger, bolder Retina display. A5 processor. Tonnes of cheap games
HATE Pricey. Lacks physical controls. Closed system

T3 SAYS A modern portable that's spawned a new gen of gamers who don't consider themselves gamers

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640 touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 BATTERY 8hrs (video), 40hrs (audio)

08



NINTENDO WII U

★★★★★ £220, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2012

LOVE Genuinely innovative platform. Full HD graphics at last for Mario and co. Some very good, unique games from Nintendo
HATE Pricey. Touchscreen an afterthought. Game options slim

T3 SAYS Nintendo again reinvented the way we play, yet unfortunately few developers fancy joining in the fun

SPECIFICATIONS

STORAGE 32GB CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, 4x USB, HDMI, NFC GAMEPAD Touchscreen 6.2-inch, 854x480 BATTERY 3-5hrs

09



NINTENDO 2DS

★★★★★ £85, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Nintendo's vast catalogue of AAA-quality games, now available for you at a very special price. Kid-friendly build
HATE Possibly the ugliest gaming gadget ever

T3 SAYS If you're a gamer or parent who doesn't own a DS platform, this is a very smart purchase

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640 touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 BATTERY 8hrs (video), 40hrs (audio)

10



NVIDIA SHIELD

★★★★★ £257, NVIDIA.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2013

LOVE Excellent screen and Tegra 4-powered graphics. Streams high-end PC games to a portable device
HATE Bulky design. Technical restrictions. Kerr-azy UK pricing

T3 SAYS Real graphical punch, even if bulk, price tag and a lack of game support dampen spirits somewhat

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 5-inch 1280x720 CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, GPS, HDMI, USB 2.0, MicroSD, 3.5mm BATTERY 5hrs



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Home entertainment



{CONTENT} Connected TV crackers

1
NETFLIX
4K video quality, a great selection of series and movies, and it works on almost any platform. A nice flat fee, too. What's not to like?
NETFLIX.COM

2
AMAZON PRIME INSTANT
Aces Netflix for movies, but the interface isn't

as sweet, and adding pay-per-download into the mix sours the overall deal.
AMAZON.CO.UK

3
NOW TV
Powered by Sky TV, this telly-viewing alternative comes with exclusive sports content, movies and entertainment channels.
NOWTV.COM

01

SKY+ HD 2TB WI-FI

PRICE VARIES, SKY.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Seamless Wi-Fi integration. Rapidly expanding on-demand content. Excellent all-round performance
HATE ONLY Still only two tuners to Virgin Media's three
T3 SAYS Our Entertainment Gadget of the Year is also the best PVR set-top choice, now with added Wi-Fi

SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Satellite **HD CHANNELS** 67 **TUNERS** 2
STORAGE 2TB/350hrs HD recording

02

VIRGIN MEDIA TIVO

PRICE VARIES, VIRGINMEDIA.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Triple tuner recording. Excellent image quality. Extensive on-demand content that's easy to search. Built-in Netflix
HATE The user interface is long overdue a revamp
T3 SAYS Now with a massive selection of catch-up and on-demand services, TiVo's upped its game

SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Cable **HD CHANNELS** 56 **TUNERS** 3
STORAGE 1TB/100hrs HD recording

03

SONY BDV-N590

£273, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2012

LOVE Five satellite speakers and a sub. Net-connected 3D Blu-ray player with great performance. Groovy price
HATE Satellites are a touch on the small side
T3 SAYS A full 5.1 cinema system and Blu-ray deck for less than £300? That's a bargain in anyone's book

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 1,000W **CHANNELS** 5.1 **CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 2x USB, optical, audio, composite, ethernet

04

HUMAX HB-1000S FREESAT HD

£130, HUMAXDIGITAL.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Easy-to-use Freetime platform. Blends catch-up and live TV. Integrated on-demand services. Cheap and sub-free
HATE No built-in storage. Only a single tuner
T3 SAYS Inexpensive and slick way to get your satellite telly fix without a subscription

SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Satellite **HD CHANNELS** 11 **TUNERS** 1
STORAGE None, compatible with USB drives

05

MAXELL MXSP-SB3000

£159, UK.MAXELL.EU, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Robust and well-balanced sound from a good-looking soundbar. Meaty 100W wireless sub
HATE No Dolby Digital decoder
T3 SAYS Maxell's first soundbar is a corker, delivering on performance and value for money

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 30W + 100W sub **CHANNELS** 2.1 **CONNECTIONS** 3x HDMI, Bluetooth, Optical, Coaxial, RCA, 3.5mm

06

PANASONIC DMP-BDT330

£145, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Vibrant colours and striking detail. 4K upscaling on hand for proper encouragement to buy a 4K telly, too
HATE Rather convoluted interface
T3 SAYS Future-proof Blu-ray player with cracking image quality, 4K upscaling and decent smart TV trimmings

SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, 2x HDMI, optical digital out, 2x USB, SD card, ethernet **SIZE** 430x183x41mm

07

ONKYO TX-NR515

£300, UK.ONKYO.COM, TESTED APRIL 2013

LOVE Bombastic, 130W-per-channel oomph. Slick interface. Eight HDMI inputs. Can upscale images to 4K resolution
HATE No AirPlay, unlike some rival receivers
T3 SAYS A polished multichannel AV receiver with all the modern trimmings, at an affordable price

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 130W per channel **CONNECTIONS** 8x HDMI, 2x USB, 5x composite, 4x digital audio, 5x analogue audio, Wi-Fi via dongle

08

YOUVIEW

£199, YOUVIEW.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Retrospective EPG mixes catch-up and live telly. Excellent image quality and ease of use. All the big UK channels on board
HATE No integrated Wi-Fi. No network file support
T3 SAYS This slimline silver TV-surfer is a great choice for non-subscription telly addicts

SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Freeview HD **HD CHANNELS** 12 **TUNERS** 2
STORAGE 500GB – 125hrs HD, 300hrs SD

09

SONY BDP-S5100

£133, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Appealing and compact design. Vivid Blu-ray images and smooth upscaling from DVD. Useful apps and features
HATE Just one HDMI. Iffy 2D-to-3D conversion
T3 SAYS "Distinctive" design houses high-class Blu-ray-ness. Striking 3D visuals and cinematic sound guaranteed

SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, HDMI, 2x USB, coaxial digital audio out **SIZE** 360x199x43mm

10

SAMSUNG BD-F7500

£149, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Set-top packed with apps providing catch-up TV services. Comprehensive connectivity. Speedy menus. 4K upscaling
HATE Occasional video noise and judder
T3 SAYS The actual Blu-ray playback is good rather than great, but the apps and additional features rock

SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, 2x HDMI, USB, optical digital audio out, analogue audio out **SIZE** 430x201x46mm



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art, design and
craft tips

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www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/computer

Home audio



01

DENON COCOON STREAM

★★★★★ £249, DENON.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE AirPlay-enabled streaming speaker that also plays nicely with NAS storage and DLNA for Android devices via smart app
HATE Jelly bean-style design not to all tastes

T3 SAYS A crowd-pleasing streaming speaker that, sonically speaking, punches well above its price point

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 4x 25W **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi, USB, AirPlay, DLNA, 3.5mm out **SIZE** 451x236x170mm

02

CAMBRIDGE AUDIO MINX AIR 100

★★★★★ £250, CAMBRIDGEAUDIO.COM, TESTED MAY 2013

LOVE Powerful, detailed sound quality. AirPlay and Bluetooth connectivity. Rugged, sleek design. Handy web radio buttons
HATE Multi-room is less straightforward than on Sonos

T3 SAYS Sounds great and packs more features than any other wireless speaker systems on the market

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi, AirPlay, Bluetooth, RCA, 3.5mm **SIZE** 354x182x118mm

03

DENON CEOL PICCOLO

★★★★★ £178 WITHOUT SPEAKERS, £313 WITH, DENON.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE The original all-in-one Ceol has ditched the CD player but kept AirPlay, an iPod dock, 24-bit support and web radio
HATE Slightly dull looks

T3 SAYS Multi-format mini marvel at a decent price

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 65W **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi, USB, optical in, audio in, AirPlay, 3.5mm out **SIZE** 180x90x234mm

04

PHILIPS FIDELIO SOUNDSPHERE

★★★★★ £450, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2012

LOVE Powerful and articulate 100W sound, a classy design and a strong wireless connection for AirPlay streaming. Add the free *Fidelio* app and you get internet radio, too
HATE No LCD display means awkward set-up. Not cheap

T3 SAYS Quality speakers with added AirPlay? Love 'em

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 50W **CONNECTIVITY** Line in, AirPlay **SIZE** 265x410mm

05

NS2 AIR MONITORS V2

★★★★★ €400, NOCS.SE, TESTED DECEMBER 2014

LOVE Rock-solid AirPlay streaming. Useful Spotify connection. Great design and build
HATE No remote control. No optical input. No NFC

T3 SAYS These smart little boxes are the perfect blend of wireless convenience and great design

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 80W **CONNECTIVITY** AirPlay, NOCS app, Bluetooth with Apt-X **SIZE** 160x110x140mm

06

BOWERS & WILKINS A5

★★★★★ £399, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE Unfussy design and highly impressive sound.

New app makes iTunes syncing easy
HATE Bass wobbles at higher volumes

T3 SAYS Elegant audio executed excellently, the A5 is the little black dress of speakers

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 4x 20W **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi, auxiliary analogue, ethernet, AirPlay, 3.5mm out **SIZE** 300x180x120mm

07

MONITOR AIRSTREAM S300

★★★★★ £249, MONITORAUDIO.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Can do both refined and raucous. Good stability by AirPlay standards. Reasonably priced

HATE Set-up is a pain. Banana shape won't please everyone

T3 SAYS A curvaceous beatbox that, thanks to AirPlay, can also be used to build a cheap multi-room system

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W **CONNECTIVITY** G Wi-Fi, 3.5mm input, USB audio/data inputs **SIZE** 467x150x154mm

08

SIMPLE AUDIO ROOMPLAYER

★★★★★ £699, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE Supreme sound quality when paired with suitably spendy speakers. Easy set-up and reliable streaming at up to 24 bits
HATE No wireless connection. More pricey than Sonos

T3 SAYS Fine lozenges of multi-room audiophile delight, though price and features put them in a niche category

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W **CONNECTIVITY** Ethernet, phono in/out, 3.5mm in/out, optical out, subwoofer out **SIZE** 50x200x200mm

09

PHILIPS AW9000

★★★★★ £368, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE Six high-class drivers deliver outstanding sound quality. Wood veneer speakers look classy
HATE DLNA set-up needs to be made simpler

T3 SAYS Buxom chunks of wireless sonic bliss. A fine alternative to the one-box streaming norm

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W **CONNECTIVITY** N Wi-Fi, analogue, digital coaxial, digital optical, 3.5mm in **SIZE** 300x210x350mm

10

PURE JONGO T4

★★★★★ £130, PURE.COM, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Multi-room wireless streaming on a relative budget. Link two and you can achieve proper stereo sound, too
HATE Connectivity can be glitchy

T3 SAYS The slightly more affordable way to play digital DJ for the whole house, with good results

SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 50W **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, ethernet, 3.5mm in **SIZE** 305x146x165mm



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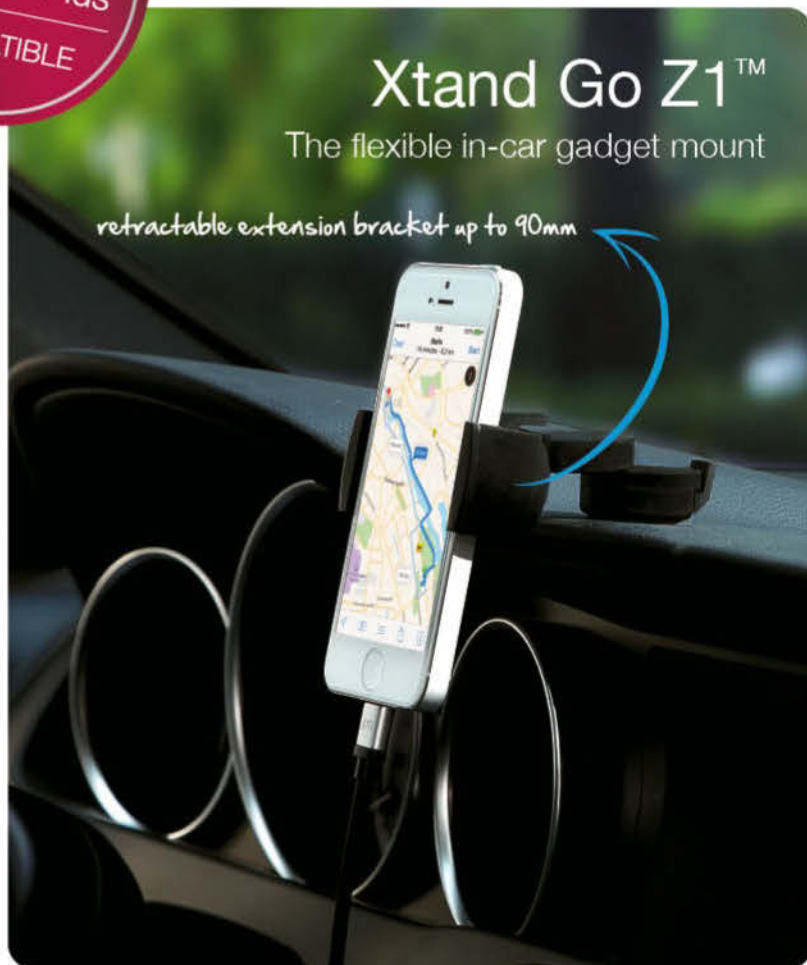


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Televisions

{BUYING TIPS}

Top projectors in the spotlight

1

OPTOMA HD50

With razor-sharp 1080p, this big-screen bargain outperforms its price tag. Well worth a look.
£999, OPTOMA.CO.UK

2

OPTOMA HD30

Breathtaking 1080p with nuanced blacks and impressive 3D playback.
£1,299, OPTOMA.CO.UK

3

SONY VPL-HW55ES

Awesome full-HD projector for screen sizes up to 300 inches. Pricey, but worth it.
£2,699, SONY.CO.UK

4

BENQ W1300

Dynamic images and 2,200 Lumens brightness make this a punchy choice for big-screen sports fans.
£824, BENQ.CO.UK

01

LG 47LB730V

★★★★★ £799, LG.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE WebOS interface delivers on-demand and catch-up how we want it. Colour-rich images. Price is very right
HATE Lack of true blacks. Not 4K. You'll need a soundbar
T3 SAYS This is how you make a web TV.

LG's WebOS promises to reinvent how you watch

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 47-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 3x HDMI, 3x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot

06

PANASONIC TX-50AX802

★★★★★ £1,799, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2014

LOVE Great looks. Superb picture quality and motion handling
HATE Upscaling not as spectacular as other budget 4K TVs
T3 SAYS An absolutely stunning TV that will satisfy anyone after dazzling pictures and stunning looks

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 50-inch, 3840x2163 **CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 3x USB, CI Slot, component/composite/Scart (via adaptor)

02

SONY KD-65X9005B

★★★★★ £3,349, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Ultra-HD screen and excellent upscaling. Compatible with Netflix 4K streaming. Striking wedge design
HATE Missing some basic catch-up services. Very expensive
T3 SAYS The ultimate TV upgrade for 2014,

but one for early adopters with deep pockets only

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 65-inch, 3840x2160 **CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 3x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot, NFC

07

SONY KDL-55W905A

★★★★★ £1,100, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Excellent picture performance. Distinctive design. Well connected. Top file support
HATE Limited catch-up TV. Single tuner

T3 SAYS A great-looking screen with outstanding image quality and few flashy extras

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, Ethernet, NFC, Scart, component

03

SAMSUNG UE55HU8500

★★★★★ £2,465, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Slightly curved screen for a more absorbing picture. Excellent 4K image quality. Ready for 4K Netflix
HATE Curved footprint won't suit every space

T3 SAYS Futuristic-looking and future-proof, this is the curvy 4K TV that can

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 3840x2160 **CONNECTIONS** 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, 2x composite, component, Ethernet

08

SAMSUNG UE48H6400

★★★★★ £3,499, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

LOVE Stunning 4K and well upscaled HD. Lots of useful features and connectivity
HATE Reflective screen. You need to dial down the processing

T3 SAYS Neither cheap nor curved, but this has the scale and resolution to really show you what 4K is all about

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 65-inch, 3840x2160 **CONNECTIONS** 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, ethernet, component, 2x composite, 3x USB 2.0

04

SONY KDL-50W829

★★★★★ £779, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Superb HD image quality. Fabulous motion handling. Top discovery engine for online content
HATE Limited catch-up – no ITV Player or 4OD

T3 SAYS Polished 1080p pictures and smarter features, all for a very reasonable price

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 50-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, Scart, 2x USB, digital optical, digital audio, Ethernet

09

PHILIPS 55PFS6609

★★★★★ £1,000, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Ambilight mood lighting. Solid HD image clarity. Decent selection of catch-up and on-demand services
HATE Charmless Smart TV portal. Active 3D has issues

T3 SAYS An attractive and solid performer, but you can get a slightly better telly for less dosh

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 2x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot

05

LG 55LA740

★★★★★ £1,199, LG.COM, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Strong on-demand and catch-up offering. Strong high-def performance. Top value for money
HATE Slightly muted blacks. Only one tuner

T3 SAYS A brilliant balance between killer tech, abundant content and affordability

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** 3x HDMI, Wi-Fi, Scart, 3x USB, digital optical, digital audio, Ethernet

10

TOSHIBA 47L7453

★★★★★ £800, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

LOVE Dramatic, contrast-heavy image. Polished Cloud TV portal. Powerful audio performance. Almost budget price
HATE Passive 3D and motion handling have faults

T3 SAYS This bargain telly packs picture quality, but fails at the finer details

SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 47-inch, 1920x1080 **CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 2x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot, PC



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Cameras



{BUYING TIPS}

Budget compact cameras

1

CANON IXUS 140

Credit card-sized snapper with a 16-meg sensor, 8x zoom and Wi-Fi. Video is 720p rather than full-HD. £94, CANON.CO.UK

2

SAMSUNG WB250F

Heftier than the Canon, but with 1080p video and an 18x zoom, we see why. £110, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

3

SONY CYBER-SHOT

DSC-WX60 16.2-meg CMOS, 8x zoom and easy 1080p shooting. Small, but well formed. £93, SONY.CO.UK

4

NIKON COOLPIX S02

No fripperies, but does the basics well, with a 13.2-meg CMOS and 1080p video. £90, NIKON.CO.UK

01

CANON EOS 700D

★★★★★ £579, CANON.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE APS-C CMOS sensor delivers cracking images. Jack-of-all-trades zoom kit lens. Touchscreen LCD
HATE Relatively bulky and pricey
T3 SAYS An excellent beginner's DSLR that takes semi-pro shots with reliable quality

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 18.5-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 580g

02

SONY SLT-A58

★★★★★ £339, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE Great value for money. Translucent mirror allows you to film video in a flash. Decent lens choice
HATE Smaller LCD screen, but a fairly bulky look
T3 SAYS Sony's not-a-DSLR is feature-packed with great performance and a low price

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 20.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 2.7-inch WEIGHT 492g

03

FUJIFILM X-T1

★★★★★ £1,329, FUJIFILM.EU/UK

LOVE Retro-styled yet technologically innovative. Larger APS-C chip matches the size found in DSLRs proper
HATE You could buy a decent SLR for the same price
T3 SAYS High-end CSC challenges Canon and Nikon DSLRs with smaller, mirrorless body and retro cool

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 16.3-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-135mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 440g

04

OLYMPUS STYLUS SH-1

★★★★★ £350, OLYMPUS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Well-crafted design. Handles like a much pricier Olympus PEN interchangeable lens cam
HATE Zoom range could be better
T3 SAYS Classic looks and modern features. The most premium of premium compacts

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 16-megapixel/1080p LENS 25-600mm
SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 271g

05

SAMSUNG NX300

★★★★★ £380, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2013

LOVE DSLR-quality photos. Tilttable AMOLED touchscreen. Manual controls aplenty. Built-in Wi-Fi
HATE No viewfinder or built-in flash
T3 SAYS Cutting-edge camera features housed in an attractive, compact package; a winner

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 21.6-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 3.31-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 284g

06

SAMSUNG NX MINI

★★★★★ £275, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Point-and-shoot size, but with the added bonus of interchangeable lenses
HATE Bundled with a fixed zoom lens. CMOS not APS-C
T3 SAYS Affordable and compact, with plenty of potential for lens upgrades

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 20.5-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-73mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 196g

07

SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX60V

★★★★★ £319, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Extensive zoom. Richly detailed images. Rock-solid but still pocket-sized build
HATE Slightly limited aperture
T3 SAYS Richly detailed pictures from a small but perfectly formed compact camera

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 20.4-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-720mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 272g

08

SONY A5000

★★★★★ £349, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Compact size. Tilting screen. High-resolution APS-C sensor. Wi-Fi connectivity and selfie-ready tilting screen
HATE No hotshoe. No touchscreen
T3 SAYS A great upgrade if you crave better shots than your smartphone or compact can handle

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 20.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 16-50mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 269g

09

NIKON COOLPIX S9700

★★★★★ £250, NIKON.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

LOVE Big lens on a compact body. OLED screen at the rear. Reasonably priced for a big zooming compact
HATE No grip. Small buttons are tough to control
T3 SAYS The compact camera that delivers a big zoom at an affordable price

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 16-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 25-750mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 232g

10

SONY RX100 II

★★★★★ £465, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Rock-solid construction. Tilting LCD and hotshoe (a rarity on a compact). Carl Zeiss lens
HATE Tiny buttons. No hand grip. Expensive for a compact
T3 SAYS An A-grade combination of optics and features crammed cleverly into a pocket snapper

SPECIFICATIONS

SENSOR 20.2-megapixel/1080p LENS 28-200mm (in 35mm terms) SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 281g



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Accessories



01

TOMTOM GO 6000

★★★★★ £238, TOMTOM.COM/UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Clean, quick interface. HD traffic info, with no additional charges for service or data connectivity throughout Europe
HATE Speed cam tips-offs cost £20 per year. Pricey

T3 SAYS *Slightly better than the Garmin satnav, for our money. Breathes new life into bespoke mapping tech*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 6 inches **CONNECTIVITY** Bluetooth
SIZE 169x105x20mm

02



TOMTOM MULTI-SPORT CARDIO

★★★★★ £280, TOMTOM.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Built-in heart monitor with trustworthy results. Simple interface. Accurate data for most sporting disciplines
HATE Can't track pulse in the pool. No Android app

T3 SAYS *One for serious sporty types, this offers the most comprehensive fitness data around*

SPECIFICATIONS

SYNCING Bluetooth and ANT+ **WATER RESISTANCE** 50m
BATTERY 8hrs **SIZE** 22x25x13.8mm/63g

03



GARMIN VIVOFIT

★★★★★ £100, GARMIN.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Simple, sporty design. Will survive the swimming pool and pairs with heart-rate monitor. One-year battery life
HATE No automatic syncing. *Garmin Connect* app's not the best

T3 SAYS *Sporty and practical, with a marathon battery. Not the best-looking, but it's still our top pick*

SPECIFICATIONS

SYNCING Bluetooth and ANT+ **WATER RESISTANCE** 50m
BATTERY 1 year **SIZES** 120-175 mm (small), 152-210 mm (large)

04



SAMSUNG GEAR FIT

★★★★★ £180, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JULY 2014

LOVE Smartwatch and fitness-tracking features combined. That curved AMOLED screen. Heart-rate tracking
HATE Limited compatibility and accuracy

T3 SAYS *Great-looking smartwatch with built-in fitness features. A thoroughly modern timepiece*

SPECIFICATIONS

SYNCING Bluetooth 4.0 **WATER RESISTANCE** Up to 1m
BATTERY 5 days **SIZE** 23x57x12mm

05



ROKU STREAMING STICK

★★★★★ £50, ROKU.COM, TESTED AUGUST 2014

LOVE Simple set-up. Great app selection, including some games. Reliable HD streaming
HATE No viewing unofficial weblinks. No Amazon Prime Instant

T3 SAYS *A huge selection of apps and a proper remote give Roku the slight edge in the streaming game*

SPECIFICATIONS

CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi dual-band **CONTENT** iPlayer, NowTV, YouTube, Spotify and more **DIMENSIONS** 11x27x79mm/18g

06



GOOGLE CHROMECAST

★★★★★ £30, GOOGLE.COM/CHROMECAST, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Easy to get smart video on TV. Supported services play in HD. Accesses not-so-supported sites, too
HATE Limited official app selection at present

T3 SAYS *This dongle instantly makes almost any TV web-enabled and costs just thirty quid*

SPECIFICATIONS

CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, HDMI, USB **SUPPORTS** BBC iPlayer, Netflix, YouTube, Vevo, Rdio **SIZES** 72x35x12mm/34g

07



MOTO 360

★★★★★ £199, MOTO360.MOTOROLA.COM

LOVE Classic, stylish design. Useful alerts and synced media controls. Motorola Connect for added customisability
HATE Confusing UI. Dated, four-year-old chipset

T3 SAYS *The design king of smartwatches you can get your hands on right now*

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN 1.5"; Gorilla Glass 3 **SOFTWARE** Android Wear
BATTERY One day **SIZE** 46x11.5mm

08



NIKE FUEL BAND SE

★★★★★ £129, NIKE.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE The best-looking band around. Strong motivational pairing of Win the Hour and the in-app social competitiveness
HATE Not for swimming. Not for Android

T3 SAYS *The most social band on test, the Fuelband SE is a great motivational tool, if not the most accurate tracker*

SPECIFICATIONS

SYNCING Bluetooth/USB **WATER RESISTANCE** Shower only
BATTERY 3 days **SIZES** 147mm (small) to 197mm (extra-large)

09



ASTRO A50 WIRELESS SYSTEM

★★★★★ £250, ASTROGAMING.CO.UK, TESTED AUGUST 2014

LOVE Dolby 7.1 sound with almost no interference. Compatible with all PCs and consoles (Xbox One requires adapter)
HATE No detachable microphone. A little heavy

T3 SAYS *A solid gaming headset for any breed of gamer looking to free themselves of wires*

SPECIFICATIONS

FREQUENCY RESPONSE 20Hz-20,000KHz
CONNECTIVITY 5.8GHz Wi-Fi, USB, optical cable

10



POLAR LOOP

★★★★★ £79.50, POLAR.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

LOVE Pairs with heart-rate chest strap for accurate data. Can be worn for swimming. Impressive battery life, rapid charging
HATE Cheap-feeling design

T3 SAYS *Comprehensive fitness tracker for under £100. If you can compromise on build, it's a bit of a bargain*

SPECIFICATIONS

SYNCING Bluetooth/USB **WATER RESISTANCE** 20m
BATTERY 6 days **SIZE** Custom fit from 145-240mm



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NO. 73

The 10 tech things... you've forgotten you lived with

1/ No mobiles

It's probably hard for yoots to imagine, but once upon a time, way, way back, if you arranged to meet someone at the pub and they didn't show up, you'd just have to sit there alone with no idea if they were injured, dead, hated you or simply sat in a similarly named pub in another town. There was always the phone box, but who were you going to call? The 620 other Red Lions in the UK? Nope, it was just you, alone for hours, tearing a beer mat to shreds.

2/ Cassette tapes

Back in the day, Sunday afternoons meant spending three hours bent awkwardly over a tape deck, recording your favourite pop picks from the top 40. Remember the heavy clunk of pressing record and play at the same time on every track, and the tension you felt waiting for the DJ's voice to kick in? All this effort, and you'd chuck the resulting tape into your basket of tapes and never find it again. Some people remember this fondly...

3/ Disposable cameras

When was the last time you took a photo of your thumb? Can't remember? You probably deleted it. But this used to be all the rage when we had just 32 shots for a two-week holiday, with no chance to check them until we were back in our local Boots picking up the prints. What happened to all those thumb pictures, we wonder. Who has them?

4/ Video rental shops

Think it's hard to find something to watch on



Sky Movies? Stop complaining. Time was, you'd have to schlepp to your local video shop to get your hands on the latest blockbuster. You and the other man would both arrive in front of the last copy of *Batman*, both study the box intently, both pretend to have a look at the surrounding videos, then the other man would pounce. Holy mackerel! And then you had to go home and

explain to everyone why you were holding *Hellraiser II* again. Saturday ruined.

5/ Discmans

The ultimate in portable entertainment. One jacket pocket would be ripped a bit from forcing in this huge plastic box, the other would contain one CD case filled with five, scratched-up discs, ready

to spill to the floor whenever you opened it. All this while you walked like a man without knees to avoid bumping the track with every step.

6/ Fat TVs

Now one of the easiest items to manoeuvre when moving house, it wasn't always this way for televisions. Lifting huge CRT TV sets up stairs

would require two people to cut their hands to ribbons on sharp plastic, while fighting against the television's powerful urge to throw itself face-first at the floor.

7/ Shutting down computers...

...as if we were shutting down the National Grid. You'd been on your huge

building of a PC for an hour, so naturally it would sound like a hairdryer and be hotter than an AGA. This meant spending five minutes closing it down, before being told it was safe to turn it off and cover it up with a plastic sheet, as if it were a vintage sports car, to protect it from potentially catastrophic dust damage.


8/ Minesweeper madness

Sometimes, during those heady years of the early 90s, you would get bored of endless *Solitaire* (even after changing the colour of the pack *and* the table), so would venture over to *Minesweeper* instead, which you would play for less than a minute because you didn't – and still don't, actually – have a clue what you were meant to do.

9/ Teletext

There hasn't always been a *LiveScore* app. In the dark days we'd go to Teletext page 302 to check the latest football news, flicking to the scores page on a Saturday afternoon, always to find we'd joined on page two of 16. By the time we'd reached the Scottish lower leagues the match we wanted on page one was long since over.

10/ Camcorders

Zooming in and out with all the steadiness of Ozzy Osbourne, camcorders of yore would film entire holidays, even capturing hours of footage when the lens cap was still on, and would have to be carried around in a bag the size of a hat box. Then Vine worked out that six seconds was actually the maximum amount of time anyone can watch a home movie without dying of boredom. Thank heavens. 

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